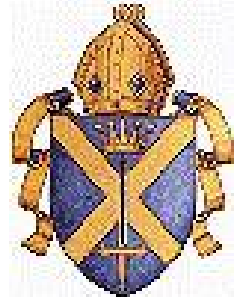


Partnership News

27 June 2010
Ordinary 13



Partnership Church Services Today

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

9.30am St. Mark's – Morning Worship and Baptism

Preacher - Revd Dr Sam Cappleman
Leadership – Mrs Laura Farthing
Intercessions – Mr Richard Ledger

11.00am Putnoe - Morning Worship

Preacher - Revd Dr Sam Cappleman
Leadership - Mrs Sam Ware
Intercessions - Ministers

4th July—Ordinary 14

9.30am St. Mark's-Family Worship

Preacher– Revd. Dr. Sam Cappleman
Leadership Mr Mick Ovenden
Intercessions Mrs Alison Holden

11.00am Putnoe - Family Worship

Preacher– Revd. Dr. Sam Cappleman
Leadership
Intercessions

Readings 1. Isaiah 66:10-14 2. Galatians 6: 7-13.
Luke 10: 1-11, 16-20

Midweek Worship

Holy Communion at St Mark's Chapel every Wednesday
at 10.00am and at Sir William Harpur House on first
Monday of every month at 10.00am

Thank You

We are grateful when people make donations towards 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 Ann Hitt 404186 (Putnoe Heights) or add your name to the rota in the foyers.

Welcome

We welcome to our worship today the family and friends of Jude Garnett who has been brought for baptism

Prayer for Sunday

Grant us this day, O Lord, Peace within ourselves, that our inner tensions may be resolved; Peace with those around us, that we may not disturb others by our hasty words; Peace with you, that the assurance of your eternal love may remove our fear; Through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.

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)

Deacon Jane Mason

12 Hartop Close, Bedford MK41 8HE
348091 Mobile 07807 146535
jane@thisischurch.com

The Reverend Charles Royden

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 and may appear in other local media sources.

Partnership News is also archived on our church website www.ThisChurch.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 Monday to Thursday 9am - 5pm, Friday 9am - 1pm
Tel/fax & Answering Service 365630 putnoe@thisischurch.com
Centre Manager Mr Barry Snelson 365630 & 344417
Leadership Team Mrs Samantha Ware 304058
Treasurer Mr Ian Morse 216428 treasurerph@thisischurch.com
Gift Aid Administrator John Hitt 404186
Youth Worker Emma Gordon email - 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 - Avril Williams 360605
Treasurer - Mr Ian Farthing 210892 treasurer@thisischurch.com

Regular Weekly Activities - A Guide To Our Churches

Monday

9.15 -11.45 am Mon-Fri Putnoe Heights Pre-school

Head teacher Mrs Janet Smith ☎326685

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

9.30-3.15pm Top Marks Mon-Fri St Mark's

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.

9.45am - Body Control Pilates –Putnoe Heights

Stephanie Smith ☎ 357787 or 07973174430

10.00am Bakers Barn Art Group. St Mark's Mrs Berry ☎211955

10.30am U3A Play reading St Mark's J Birks ☎219607

12.00pm Story box Putnoe Heights 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.

3.30pm Storybox Plus Putnoe Heights for 4-9 year olds. Meet at 3.30 for refreshments & games. Then until 5pm stories, drama, singing & craft activities.

4.15pm Rosemary Conley Diet & Fitness. Putnoe Heights. Margo Needham ☎843747 or 07881730747

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 ☎07720713738.

6.15 Pilates at Putnoe Heights Jane Butcher 300859

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

7.30pm Cancer Care Society. St Mark's. 1st Week. Mr J Dewhurst ☎01908 377020

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

7.15pm Yoga. Putnoe Heights Denise Green ☎244970

7.30pm Whist Drive. St Mark's 3rd & 5th week . Next meeting 19 July 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 Jo Jingles. St. Mark's. Music & movement for pre-school children. Renu Elston ☎07790296016

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

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

10am Autism Beds Adult Support Group. St Mark's. Sally Cripsley ☎350704

11.15am U3A Keep Fit Putnoe Heights Sally Banks ☎ 870357

1.15pm Sing and Stomp. For toddlers & their carers. Run by the Putnoe Children's Centre. Putnoe Heights Majella Atkinson ☎325293.

1.30pm U3A Cinema Group. St Mark's 4th Week in month . Mrs Beaumont ☎261461

2.00pm U3A Book Group. St Mark's 3rd Week Mrs Forrest ☎344043

2.00pm Library Walk W.I. Putnoe Heights, meets monthly. Morag Tomkins ☎356895

2pm U3A Photography (Group 3) St Mark's 1st Week. Janet King ☎313946

2.15pm Putnoe Heights Women's Fellowship. Next meeting June 29 Tea and Chat Betty Wyatt ☎350188.

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

2.15pm Tuesday Afternoon Housegroup. St Mark's Fortnightly. Mary Stubbs ☎406784.

3.45pm-6.15pm Stars School of Dance. Putnoe Heights. Esther Richardson ☎295862 or 07917582468.

6.30pm Creative Card making. Putnoe Heights Church. Carol Houghton ☎346718

6.30pm Yoga Putnoe Heights Veronica Lafferty ☎781466 or 07788750360

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

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

7.30pm Hearts in Beds. Cardiac Support Group 1st Tuesday in the month at St Mark's. Brian Ibberson ☎403497

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

7.30pm Putnoe Heights Ladies Tuesday Club - Meets fortnightly. Next meeting June 29 Charity Beetle Drive for Anjulita Court. Janet King ☎313946

8.15pm - 10.15pm Bedford Advanced Dancers St. Mark's 1st Tuesday in month. Shirley Sadler ☎01767 651767

Wednesday

9.30am Body Control Pilates. Putnoe Heights. Stephanie Smith ☎357787 or 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

10am U3A Card Making. St Mark's Church. 4th week in the month. Janet King ☎313946

12.30pm Luncheon Club. Putnoe Heights fortnightly. Next - July 7 Putnoe Heights Office ☎365630

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 Putnoe monthly .All welcome Nancy Barr ☎268147

2-5pm Police Surgery. St Mark's Foyer. ☎349179

1.30-4.30pm U3A Craft St Mark's 1st & 3rd week. Pat Holland ☎262823

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 or 07910835994.

6-8pm Karate. St Mark's Karen King ☎079412 64885

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

7.00pm Archaeological & Local History Society Putnoe Heights monthly. Vanessa Aykac 268098 or 07917385987
7.00pm Putnoe Guild Putnoe Heights monthly Janice Loxley ☎ 347073

7.00pm Line Dancing Putnoe Heights Mike Del-Boyer ☎348378

8.00pm Badminton Club Putnoe Heights All welcome. Ken Marriott ☎214867

8.00pm Tudor Reeds Folk Dance Club meet at St Mark's 1st,3rd & 5th Wednesday in month. Next meeting 30 June Everyone welcome. All dances called, only £1 including refreshments. Ring Alan ☎ 345312.Graham 406359 or Rosemary 405594 for more details.

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.

9.45am Yoga Putnoe Heights Denise Green ☎244970

9.45am Chat and Play St.Mark's. A group for Mums & toddlers. Emma Strangwick ☎211070

11am-12noon Citizens Advice Bureau at Putnoe Heights.

12pm Storybox . 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 Jaana Swaby ☎ 363283

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

1.30pm Toddler Playtime. Putnoe Majella Atkinson ☎325293.

2pm Putnoe Bridge Club. Gerald Palmer ☎345991

2.30 - 4.30pm Bedford Art Society at St Mark's. Malcolm Smith ☎400741

4 - 7.00pm Police Surgery. St Mark's Foyer. ☎349179

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

6.15pm Brownies. Putnoe Heights Lou Watkins 07919402797

7.00pm Club 2000 Putnoe Heights Nina Ovenden ☎825059

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

7.15pm Putnoe Art Group Bob Wardale ☎406094

7.30pm Bedford Embroiderers' Guild St Mark's 3rd week in month. Pauline Lynham ☎01525 714517

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

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

8.00pm Brickhill Ladies Group St Mark's 1st and 3rd week in month. Julia Nicholson ☎353642

Friday

9.30-12.30pm U3A Photography (Group 1) St Marks 4th week in month Val Scrivener ☎346397

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

10am - 12 & 1.15 - 3.15pm U3A Beginners French St Mark's Joyce Fields ☎353086

12.15pm U3A Photography (Group 2). St Mark's 4th week in month. Sue Butler ☎354183

5-8pm Stars School of Dance Putnoe Heights Contact

Esther Richardson ☎295862 or ☎07917 582468

2.00pm U3A Gardening Group Putnoe Heights Eve Whitehead ☎356875

6.15pm Yoga and Relaxation Putnoe Heights. Racheall Monton ☎297138 or 07910835994

7.45 - 10.45pm Bedford Astrology Club. St. Mark's. Carol Brown ☎01438 233385

Saturday

10.00am Theatretrain St Mark's. Dancing acting, singing. Kate Howard ☎01234 782414

Young Embroiderers bi monthly Putnoe Heights Terry Fletcher ☎357198

2.15pm Society of Recorder Players at Putnoe Heights. G Parry ☎ 01462 674792

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.

We need to find God, and he cannot be found in noise and restlessness. God is the friend of silence. See how nature--trees, flowers, grass--grows in silence; see the stars, the moon and the sun, how they move in silence....We need silence to be able to touch souls.
Mother Teresa, 20th century



Diary Dates

St Mark's Church Council – 8 November.

St Mark's Leadership Team –

Putnoe Heights Leadership Team - 18 October

Putnoe Heights Management Meeting - 27 Sept.

St Mark's Church Forum Meeting - 12 noon, 13 July, 15 September, 16th November

Putnoe Church Council - 25 October.

Pastoral Group Meeting - 13 July 4pm

Churchyard Committee - 29 September

Putnoe Heights Mission Group

Partnership Council—TBA

Brickhill Parish Council Meetings

Deanery Meeting - .

Circuit Property/Treasurers Meeting

Circuit Meeting 13 Sept.

Woodland Burial Trustees –

Putnoe Heights Children & Youth – 12 July at 1.15pm

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

Ordinary 13

Opening Sentence from Scripture

Keep me safe, O God, for in you I take refuge.
Ps 16 v 1

Collect *(Before we read we pray)*

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

birds of the air have nests

Foxes have holes, and

the Son of Man has nowhere
to lay his head

will you **FOLLOW
ME?**

Luke 9:51-62

Old Testament Bible Reading 1 Kings 19 v 15 – 16, 19 - 21

The LORD said to him, Go back the way you came, and go to the Desert of Damascus. When you get there, anoint Hazael king over Aram. Also, anoint Jehu son of Nimshi king over Israel, and anoint Elisha son of Shaphat from Abel Meholah to succeed you as prophet. So Elijah went from there and found Elisha son of Shaphat. He was ploughing with twelve yoke of oxen, and he himself was driving the twelfth pair. Elijah went up to him and threw his cloak around him. Elisha then left his oxen and ran after Elijah. Let me kiss my father and mother good-bye, he said, and then I will come with you. Go back, Elijah replied. What have I done to you? So Elisha left him and went back. He took his yoke of oxen and slaughtered them. He burned the ploughing equipment to cook the meat and gave it to the people, and they ate. Then he set out to follow Elijah and became his attendant. (This is the word of the Lord -- **Thanks be to God**)

Epistle Reading Galatians Chapter 5:1,13-25

It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery. As for those agitators, I wish they would go the whole way and emasculate themselves! You, my brothers, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the sinful nature ; rather, serve one another in love. The entire law is summed up in a single command: "Love your neighbour as yourself." 15 If you keep on biting and devouring each other, watch out or you will be destroyed by each other. So I say, live by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the sinful nature. For the sinful nature desires what is contrary to the Spirit, and the Spirit what is contrary to the sinful nature. They are in conflict with each other, so that you do not do what you want. But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under law. The acts of the sinful nature are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery; idolatry and witchcraft; hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions and envy; drunkenness, orgies, and the like. I warn you, as I did before, that those who live like this will not inherit the kingdom of God. But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law. Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the sinful nature with its passions and desires. Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit (Reader This is the Word of the Lord, **All: Thanks be to God**)

Gospel Reading Luke 9:51 -62

As the time approached for him to be taken up to heaven, Jesus resolutely set out for Jerusalem. And he sent messengers on ahead, who went into a Samaritan village to get things ready for him; but the people there did not welcome him, because he was heading for Jerusalem. When the disciples James and John saw this, they asked, "Lord, do you want us to call fire down from heaven to destroy them?" But Jesus turned and rebuked them, and they went to another village. As they were walking along the road, a man said to him, "I will follow you wherever you go." Jesus replied, "Foxes have holes and birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has no place to lay his head." He said to another man, "Follow me." But the man replied, "Lord, first let me go and bury my father." Jesus said to him, "Let the dead bury their own dead, but you go and

proclaim the kingdom of God." Still another said, "I will follow you, Lord; but first let me go back and say good-bye to my family." Jesus replied, "No one who puts his hand to the plough and looks back is fit for service in the kingdom of God."

Reader –This is the Word of the Lord, **All: Thanks be to God)**

Post Communion Prayer

Eternal God, comfort of the afflicted and healer of the broken, you have fed us at the table of life and hope; teach us ways of gentleness and peace, that all the world may acknowledge the kingdom of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Hymns

1. Hail to the Lord's anointed, 204; *Cruger*
2. Give me oil in my lamp, 167;
3. As the deer pants for the water, 37;
4. Thou didst leave thy throne, 697; *Margaret*
5. Take my life and let it be, 624 *Nottingham (Mozart)*

Commentary 'On a Mission'

It's clear from the gospel reading today that Jesus is on a mission. His determination to achieve what He sets out to is visible to all; He rebukes the disciples in one place, in another suggests to a potential follower that he let '...the dead bury their own dead...' and in another He says that no-one who looks back is fit for service in the Kingdom of God. Harsh words, but He is determined that He will not be swayed, deflected, delayed or distracted from His intense desire to get to Jerusalem. The need to go to Jerusalem is burning within Him and the only way to extinguish that fire is to go there. We are at a turning point in the gospel. The Galilean ministry is over and for the next 10 chapters Luke focuses on the Journey to Jerusalem. A journey that will end with Jesus fulfilling His identity as Priest, Prophet, King and Saviour. As He sets out, He knows what reaching the destination will ultimately mean, but He is resolute in His determination to fulfil the mission He has been sent by the Father to complete. To the three would be followers of Jesus He lays out the principles of following the way of God, almost speaking to Himself as much as to them, as He highlights the tensions between the call of the world and all it offers and the call of God and the need for perseverance in fulfilling the work of the Father. And through this dialogue we are left in no doubt, Jesus, quite literally, is a man on a mission.

We see a similar single mindedness in the readings from 1 Kings and Galatians. In the Old Testament reading we see Elisha 'assuming the mantle' or cloak of Elijah. Not only does he leave his plough and oxen, he slaughters the oxen and burns the plough so that he can cook the meat and offer it to the people there. For Elisa there could be no going back now! Similarly in Paul's letter to the Galatians we see a single mindedness of Paul which characterises much of his writings. Galatia was a larger Roman province, stretching from coast to coast in what is now Turkey. Galatians is one of the earliest pieces of New Testament writing we have. It's one of Paul's earliest letters, if not the earliest and in it we see the zeal and passion he has for promoting a correct understanding of the gospel, so that the early believers would not set off on the wrong track. Paul had visited Galatia earlier and after that visit it appears that some other Jewish-Christians had also visited. They seemed to have been teaching that in addition to repentance and faith, it was still necessary to be circumcised and observe the Jewish law in order to receive God's forgiveness and be free to live a new life. Paul was livid, and not surprisingly Galatians is the most strongly worded of all of his letters. What made Paul so cross was that this erroneous teaching destroyed the concept of salvation through faith and everything that freedom in Christ meant. That is why Paul crudely states that the people who are teaching this doctrine should go further than just circumcising themselves! Paul stresses that the only focus that the early believers should have is on the love of Christ and what that meant for themselves and for their community. To lead lives that were focused on serving God and each other, summing up the law in the single command of 'Love your neighbour as yourself'. Paul also warns the early believers that they should not misunderstand this new found freedom in Christ. For some there must have been a temptation to swing the pendulum the other way after being limited under the strictures of Jewish law and cast off all restraint, and to be tempted to lead the debauched ways of the Roman's they lived side by side with in Galatia, whose lax and immoral lifestyle was visible for all to see. The way of life that Paul exhorts the early believers to is the way of the cross, the way of Christ, the way of the Spirit, the way of love.

Walking in the way of the Spirit requires that same determination that Christ demonstrates as He heads towards Jerusalem. Paul makes it clear that the old way of life with its sinful desires and passions has been crucified with Christ for all who believe and belong to Him and therefore as believers we are called to live the life empowered and enabled by God's Holy Spirit. But it's easy to get deflected from the path of walking with the Spirit as the old desires and behaviours crowd in on us day by day. Each time we do, we need to acknowledge our position and simply step back on the path and in that same determined way as Christ who is the author and perfecter of our faith. *Sam Cappleman*

Meditation

Joy is love exalting and peace is love at rest.

Patience, love enduring in every trial and test.

Gentleness, love yielding to all that is not sin.

Goodness, love in actions that flow from Christ within.

Faith is love's eyes opened, the loving Christ to see.

Meekness, love not fighting but bowed at Calvary.

Temperance, love in harness and under Christ's control.

The Christ is love in person, and love, Christ in the soul.

Missionary Dr. Kenneth Moyner, quoted by John Stott, "A Vision for Holiness,"

Prayers for Sunday and the week ahead

God of glory, as you made yourself present in the person of Your Son, grant that we, through the presence of the Holy Spirit, may be your presence and glory in the world, that through you and obedience to your precepts all nations would know your lasting peace and hope. Amen

Father God, help us to keep you as the central focus in our lives when worldly distractions are all around us. Be with us each step of the way on our daily missionary journey as we walk ever more closely to you. Amen

As you call us, so enable us, that we may do your will and draw others to your compassionate and strong love. Help us not to be confined by the strictures we place on our faith but be open to the treasures you have in store for us, leaving the past behind us and pressing on towards the goal of making your Kingdom real in our world and living our lives the way you desire. Amen

Methodists live longer than the average Brit

Last Sunday, Stanley Lucas of Cornwall died aged 110 (born on 15 January, 1900). Stanley was thought to be not only the oldest male member of the British Methodist Church, but one of the oldest men in the world.

Is this sort of longevity characteristic of Methodists? Seemingly, yes. An analysis of family announcements printed in the Methodist Recorder carried out by British Religion in Numbers, hosted by Manchester University, shows that in 1973 the mean age of death for Methodist laity was 77.9 years for men and 83 for women. By 2008 these figures had risen to 83.9 and 91.1 respectively – well above the life expectancy for the UK population as a whole (77 for men and 82 for women). Dr Richard Vautrey, GP and Vice President of the Methodist Conference, said, "I'm sure there are many different factors at work for Methodists to attain these numbers. But I would guess that our emphasis on caring for our spiritual as well as physical health, avoiding excess, engaging with people in our communities and being good neighbours all help."

The position for male Methodist ministers is similar, with a mean age of death of 83.4 years for those whose obituaries appeared in the 2009 edition of the Minutes of the Annual Conference and Directory of the Methodist Church. And this is not a new pattern. Clive Field's unpublished Oxford DPhil thesis of 1974 revealed that, until the beginning of the twentieth century, the death rate per 1,000 among lay members of the various Methodist denominations in Britain was appreciably below the national level, especially in Wesleyan Methodism. Methodist commentators, both in the Victorian era and since, were quick to point out that the longevity of Methodists was not accidental. They posited a clear link between a religious, 'clean' and virtuous life on the one hand and a long one on the other. The avoidance of physical and moral excess was especially advocated. The Church's annual governing body, the Methodist Conference, is currently meeting in Portsmouth, and begins every year with singing "And are we yet alive?", a hymn by Charles Wesley.

TNT We look forward to meeting again on Sunday 27 June at 2.00pm for our annual bicycle ride to the Danish Camp. All Welcome. -Carolyn Morris

Joyful Noise Putnoe Heights Church on Saturday 16th October 2010 1.30 to 5pm, entry £2 per child. Come and explore the theme of Creation through music and singing, drama, dance and craft. Open to children aged 7 to 13 yrs on or before 1st September 2010. Please can you let Emma know at email Youth@thischurch.com or telephone Julia on Tel: 295964 by 1st July 2010 if you wish to take part.

Children and Youth group meeting, Putnoe
Our next meeting will now be on Monday 12 July 2010, at 1.15 p.m. in the meeting room, instead of Monday 14th June 2010.

Tuesday Club Charity Beetle Drive Tuesday 29 June at 7.30pm at Putnoe Heights Church. Tickets £5 inc. refreshments and raffle. In aid of Anjulita Court MHA Care Home.

Sunday morning Taxi Service St Mark's is now providing a taxi service for the 9.30am service. This service is free of charge for those who have difficulty transporting themselves to Church. To book this service all that you have to do is to telephone St Mark's Church Office during the week before 1.00pm on Friday. We will then arrange to have you collected by our driver, it is as simple as that! If you require any more information please speak with Avril Williams 360605

Brickhill Parish Council - Gathering on the Green The Parish Council needs to borrow gazebos for use at this event on 4 August 2010 on Waveney Green. This aims to provide fun, free activities for the community of Brickhill and raise awareness of agencies and community groups. We need to borrow gazebos for several of our activities (eg face painting). If you can help please ring Delia or Alison on 01234 271708.

Anjulita Court, Woodlands Park, Bramley Way Brickhill, is holding a Summer Fete on Saturday 3 July from 11am until 3pm. You are invited to join everyone there for their first Summer Fete. Attractions include a Plant Stall, Cake Stall, Face Painting, a Tombola. Raffle and many more things

Many thanks to Judith Stanton and her whist drive supporters for the generous donation of £110. to St Mark's Church

Congratulations to Sarah Morse, who has won her way to become Bedfordshire Junior Tennis Champion, and now looks forward to playing in the National finals at Wimbledon.

God's Open Word The Methodist prayer manual will soon be available. Prayers for overseas churches and concerns, as well as those in Britain, with lessons, hymns and other material. Make this an asset to all prayers. Please contact Vera Pearson if you wish 270737

St Mark's Church Council The Council met this week and agreed to the fitting of photovoltaic panels on the roof of the church. The system will cost £15,000 and is being funded from church finances. Planning and faculty permission has already been agreed and so the installation is due to take place in July. The reasoning behind the panels is two fold. Firstly, churches are being asked to examine their 'carbon footprint' and do whatever they can to develop green energy. The solar panels will generate electricity which can be used in the church centre. In the unlikely event that any electricity is unused this will be fed back into the national grid. The electricity saving is forecast to be a minimum of £400 per year at current rates. Secondly the government has introduced generous cash incentives meaning that the system fitted at St Mark's will attract a guaranteed funding of £1,300 per year for the next 25 years. This means that the system will be paid for in less than nine years and then be contributing to church funds. We have explored other micro energy projects such as a wind turbine but these are not currently viable.

New Window in upstairs room. I would like to say thank you to the church council for providing the new window in the upstairs office at St Mark's. It has been unbearably hot in this office without proper ventilation and we are all really grateful for the vast improvement which the new window has made *Delia*

Flowers from St Mark's For many years Putnoe Heights Church has distributed flowers to friends of the church. The flowers are removed from the displays around the church. These might be delivered on a special occasion, when somebody is poorly or bereaved. St Mark's would now like to implement the same activity and from this Sunday flowers will be removed from displays etc to be taken out into the community. The Leadership Team will be responsible for this and would appreciate being told anybody who would value this thoughtful gesture.

Near Miss? Last week the chapel at St Mark's was visited by a group of teenage girls who made a considerable mess with candles, wax etc. Obviously there was a real danger of a fire event. The CCTV system identified the offenders who were subsequently visited by the police. Please always be vigilant if you are around church premises and report any suspicious activity.



Armed Forces Day is to be recognised in Bedford on Sunday 27 June 2010. The even will go on from 11.00am until 3.00pm The day is an annual opportunity for the nation to Show Your Support for

the men and women who make up the Armed Forces community: from currently serving troops to Service families, and from veterans to cadets. Across the country people are getting involved: communities are holding local events and businesses are showing their support. Your support for the Armed Forces provides a much valued morale boost for the troops and their families. Why not take a moment to find out what they are doing and why? The UK Armed Forces defend the UK and its interests. They are busy working around the world, promoting peace, delivering aid, tackling drug smugglers and providing security and fighting terrorism. The current main UK military effort is in Afghanistan. We are operating there successfully, with lots of other countries, to provide a more stable and secure Afghanistan to help ensure a safer Britain and world.

Turn up today and see Royal British Legion, Royal Naval Association, Royal Airforce Association, RAF Henlow personnel and possibly RAF Chicksands, Royal Anglians may appear. Bedford Sea Cadets and some Combined Cadet Force. Bedford Pipes and Drums and some 1940's dressed personell SAAFA and more.

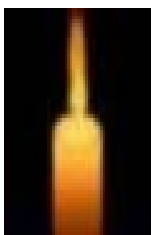
Summertime Sunday Lunch. July 11 at Putnoe Heights. Bridging the gap between New Year lunch and Harvest lunch we invite you to Summertime lunch - three courses of light, fresh summer food and drinks. Come along and invite a few friends! Tickets from Putnoe Office £8.00 each with reduction for children.

Bedford Town Band concert for Independence Day Saturday 3rd July at 7.30pm at Putnoe Heights. Tickets available on the door.

Footprints Walk Sunday 4 July –meet at 2.30pm at The Chequers Pub Wrestlingworth on B1042. the walk is about 3 1/2miles and includes a visit to the interesting churchyard at Cockayne Hatley. Further details from Alan & Ruth Tel.213951.

Have your say on the future of Brickhill. Drop in between 3 & 8 pm on Tuesday 6 July at St.Mark's Community Centre Calder Rise MK41 7UY or Monday 12 July @ Anjulita Court, Bramley Way MK41 7PH (Woodlands Park) or contribute your views at www.brickhillcommunityplan.org.uk

Taxi to Church The taxi service to St Mark's is working well for people who have difficulty making heir way to church. If you would value this helpful service please let the office know, it is good to make sure we have a full load !



Visit our online chapel, Light a Candle of Remembrance. We have now provided the opportunity to visit our online chapel and light a prayer candle. Please visit www.thischurch.com and click on the candle.



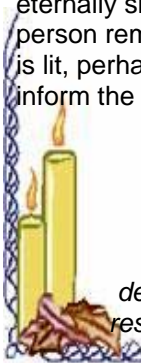
Please don't forget to buy what you need at Amazon. Free delivery . Remember, never click on Amazon direct, always click on Amazon via the link at thischurch.com, then we obtain 5%

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.

Jill Linda Connor

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



We publish the banns and pray for the marriage of

Adam Gold and Rebecca Louise Perry, both single and of this parish. *Third time of asking.*

Forthcoming Funerals



The funeral of Audrey Lee will take place at St Mark's Church on Wednesday 7 July at 3pm