

Methodist
Church

Partnership News

29 August 2004
22nd in Ordinary

The Methodist Church & the Church of England in Partnership at both
Putnoe Heights Church & St. Mark's Church



Church of
England

Church Services Today

8.30am Service of Holy Communion

Held at Putnoe Heights only

9.30am St Mark's Church – Holy Communion

with Prayer for Christian Healing

Preacher - Revd Charles Royden

Leadership Team - Mr Ian Farthing

Intercessions - Mr John Tatman

11.00am Putnoe Heights – Holy Communion

with Prayer for Christian Healing

Preacher - Revd Charles Royden

Leadership Team - Mrs Sue Allen

Intercessions - Mrs Sue Allen

23rd in Ordinary — 5 September

8.30 am Service of Holy Communion

Held at both churches

9.30am St. Mark's Church – Family Worship

with Baptism

Preacher - Mrs Sue Plant

Leadership Team - Mrs Delia Shephard

Intercessions – Mrs Morag Stewart

11.00am Putnoe Heights - Family Worship

Preacher – Mrs Sue Plant

Leadership Team - Mr Dave Allen

Intercessions - Mr Eddy Peck

Thank You

The flowers in church at St Mark's this week have been given by Margaret and John Standley to celebrate the wedding of their son Richard to Sally Hind daughter of Margaret and Mike Carpenter.

The flowers at Putnoe Heights Church this week have been given by Arthur Merryman in memory of his wife, Vi, on their wedding anniversary, and by Mrs Freeman in memory of her father, Bill Phillips.

Prayer for Sunday

O blessed Jesus, immortal and victorious, by the sorrow you suffered when all the powers of your heart failed you, have mercy on us and help us in our days of darkness and in our hours of weakness, that we do not lose hold of you either in this life, or in the life of the world to come; and this we ask for your own name's sake. Amen
St Bridget of Sweden, 1303-1373

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 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 313181

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 - Mr Ian Farthing 210892

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 Church for those with Learning Difficulties. Contact K Stenton 07748 760082
- 12.00pm - 1.00pm Storybox** at Putnoe Heights Church. Service for parents/carers & children under 5. Please bring a picnic lunch during the summer,, Bible Stories Children's activities songs and prayers, all in one hour from 12-1pm!
- 4.15 - 5.45pm Kumon Maths** at Putnoe Heights. Contact Ms R.Mistry 01908 217555
- 6.00pm Brownies** St Mark's. Mrs Gill Lake 218091
- 6.15 pm Brownies** Putnoe. Alison McEwen 358583
- 7.30pm Sugarcraft Guild** meets first Monday every month at St. Mark's Mrs. Jill Williams 357020
- 7.15 m Guides** -St. Mark's. Mrs Gill Lake 218091
- 7.30- 9.30pm Creative Needles** at Putnoe Heights. Mrs Hayward 307648
- 7.30pm Whist Drive** - At St Mark's each month. Next 30 August St. Mark's Contact Mrs. Judith Stanton. 823313
- 7.30pm Housegroup** 30 The Ridgeway. The home of Eddy & Margaret Peck 267567.
- 8.00 - 9.00 pm 'Get Fit, Stay Fit'** at Putnoe Heights. Mrs Diane Field 404976

Tuesday

- 9.30am - 12.30pm Candlewicking** (Needlework) at Putnoe Heights - Mrs Olive Shotbolt 267203
- 9.30am - 11.30pm Jo Jingles** at St. Mark's. Music & movement for pre-school children. Contact Renu Elston 01908 282866
- 10.00am - 11.00am - Keep Fit** at Putnoe Heights. Contact Mrs Stileman 822230
- 1.30 -3.00pm Putnoe Heights Church Toddlers Playtime** Contact Geraldine Skeel 406828
- 12 noon - 10.00 pm Slimming World** at St. Mark's. Sessions start at 12, 1.30pm, 4pm, 5.30pm & 7.15pm Contact Val Careless 345213.
- 2.15pm Putnoe Heights Women's Fellowship** - Next meeting - 7 Sept. Devotional Contact Mrs Betty Wyatt 350188
- 2.15pm Putnoe Heights Men's Fellowship.** Next meeting 14th September 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 Church. Contact Mary Stubbs 406784.
- 3.30 - 4.30pm Putnoe Heights Church** Essential Stretch Contact Caroline 07778 898135 or 326096

- 6.30 - 7.30pm Yoga** at Putnoe Heights. Contact Rachel Leontyne 01234 783129
- 6.45pm Guides** at Putnoe Heights - Liz Rix 363607
- 7.00 - 8.00 pm Keep Fit at St. Mark's Church.** Contact Mrs Jan Gregory 214107.
- 7.30- 9.00pm Bibleway Church** at Putnoe Heights - Bible study & prayers. Contact Revd.Tarr 309881 or 07891095746
- 7. 45 pm Putnoe Heights Ladies Tuesday Club** - Next meeting 7 Sept. The Revd Charles Royden Meets fortnightly . Contact Mrs C Davies 219130.
- 8.30-9.30pm St. Mark's - Qi Gong** (Self help healing) group) - Contact Mr F Steele 355937

Wednesday

- 10.00 am Childminding Support Group** at Putnoe Heights. Mrs S Longman 313949
- 10.00 am Day Care Centre** Putnoe Height Church 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 Putnoe Height Church** Total Body Toning Contact Caroline 07778 898135 or 326096
- Luncheon Club** at St. Mark's meets fortnightly. Next one 8 September Contact St. Mark's 342613
- 1.30 - 4.00pm. Bridge Club for the Retired** - Meets weekly at St. Mark's. Mrs Truss Boyce 781133
- 4.15 - 5.45pm Kumon Maths** at Putnoe Heights Contact Ms R Mistry 01908 217555
- 6. - 7.00pm Self Defence at Putnoe** Contact Mr James 07711 687449
- 6.00 -7.30 pm Brownies** at St Mark's Contact Mrs Carol Warden 219731
- 7.00pm St. Mark's Church** Bunyan Bridge. Contact Brian Sallows 407725
- 7-10pm Putnoe Guild** - Putnoe Heights 3rd Wednesday each month. Contact Mrs Dallas 212609
- 7.45 - 8.45pm Kick Boxing** Junior classes St. Mark's. 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.*
- 10.30am - 12.00am Brickhill Clinic** at St Mark's with **Fledglings 2.00pm—3.00pm** Contact 267444
- 10.00am - 11.30am Yoga** at Putnoe Heights Contact 244970
- 12 - 1.00 pm Storybox** at St Mark's Church. Service for parents, carers & children under 5. Sandwich lunch, Bible Stories, Children's activities,

songs & prayers, all in one hour from 12-1pm.

1.30 - 3.00 pm St. Mark's Church Toddler Group.

Contact Debbie Coppenhall 356828.

1.30 -3.00pm Putnoe Heights Church Toddlers

Playtime Contact Geraldine Skeel 406828

2.30 Bedford Arts Society at St. Mark's. Contact

Celia Maddison 782901

6.15 pm Weightwatchers at St. Mark's.

Contact Mrs Margaret Ralph 01767 224978.

6.15pm Brownies at Putnoe Mrs S Lewis 300198

7.30 - 9.30pm Club 2000 Putnoe 2nd Thursday of

the month. Contact Mrs Moreton 771261

6.15 - 7.30pm 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 Hatton 824988

7.30 - 9.30pm Embroiderer's Guild St Mark's- 3rd

Thursday 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 Church 3rd Thursday each month. Contact

Mr John Broadhouse 740271

Friday

10.00 am Day Care Centre at St. Mark's Church

Contact K Stenton 07748 760082

6 -7.00 pm Self Defence at Putnoe Contact Mr

James 0771 687449 or 07810 234890

7. 30 - 9.30pm Young Peoples meeting Contact

Pastor Tarr 376841

7.30pm Music Group St. Mark's Church/monthly

6.30pm -8.30 pm Dog Training Classes at St.

Mark's Contact Mrs L. Laton 365601

Saturday

10.00am - 1.00pm & 2 - 5pm Theatre Train at St

Mark's -dancing acting, singing,- Kate Randle

304865

7.15pm - 10.30pm Duplicate Bridge at St Mark's

Contact Ann or Peter 212066

Peace Project Saturday School at Putnoe Heights.

For details contact Mrs.E.Tarr 309881

Sunday

1- 3pm & 7-9pm Bibleway Church at Putnoe

Heights - Worship. Contact Revd. Tarr 309881

Mob. 07891095746

News, Views and Information

The Calendar

Putnoe Centre Management -27th September,
15th November

St Mark's Church Council

October 13 2004, February 1 2005

Churchyards Committee

Next meeting Monday 6 September, 10am

St Mark's Centre Management Meeting

Wednesday 29 September,

Wednesday 10 November

St Mark's Leadership Team

Wednesday 8 September

Putnoe Heights Leadership Team

Monday 6th September

Putnoe Church Council

11 October 2004, 7 February 2005

13 June 2005, 10 October 2005

Pastoral Group Wednesday 15 September at

2.30pm

Calendar dates now appear on our church
website www.ThisChurch.com. Please advise
us if you have a date to be added to the church
calendar.

Summer Holy Communion

Please note the 8.30am Holy Communion will be
alternate in August. Dates can be found on the
church website

5 September Normal practice resumes

St. Mark's Storybox restarts on 9 Sept. We
need a few new Storytellers on Thursdays, if you
would like to help, please see Joan (344536)

Mission Planning meeting will be held on
Wednesday 1 Sept. at 7.30 at 14 Flint Way (off
Bamburgh Drive). All interested in Mission are
welcome. Sylvia Cohen Tel. 343424

NCH Sunday Thank you to all St. Mark's
supporters for their donations, it brings the total
to £289.58 received from the Circuit so far.
Grace Foster NCH Circuit Co-ordinator.

Thank you to all who supported the coffee
morning last Saturday at 62 Church Lane.
£74.20 was raised for Mission funds.

Tickets will soon be on sale for the Harvest Barn
Dance on 2 October.

Magnet Magazine If you are subscriber at St
Mark's Church, will you please collect the current
edition from the Church foyer.

The Last Car Boot Sale of the season. At St
Mark's Church this Monday. There is still time to
root out goods for the church stall or to offer tray
bakes, which be gratefully received .



Bible Notes Ordinary 22

Opening Verse of Scripture Philippians

Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus: Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, but made himself nothing,

taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness.

A Collect Prayer - Before we read we pray .

Father of all, you gave your only Son, to take upon himself the form of a servant and to be obedient even to death on a cross. Give us the same mind that was in Christ Jesus that, sharing in his humility, we may come to be with him in his glory; for he lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

First Reading –Proverbs 25: 6-7

⁶Do not exalt yourself in the king's presence, and do not claim a place among great men; it is better for him to say to you, "Come up here," than for him to humiliate you before a nobleman.

What you have seen with your eyes

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

Second Reading- Hebrews 13: 1-8, 15-16

Keep on loving each other as brothers. Do not forget to entertain strangers, for by so doing some people have entertained angels without knowing it. Remember those in prison as if you were their fellow prisoners, and those who are mistreated as if you yourselves were suffering. Marriage should be honoured by all, and the marriage bed kept pure, for God will judge the adulterer and all the sexually immoral. Keep your lives free from the love of money and be content with what you have, because God has said, "Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you." So we say with confidence, "The Lord is my helper; I will not be afraid. What can man do to me?" Remember your leaders, who spoke the word of God to you. Consider the outcome of their way of life and imitate their faith. Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever. Through Jesus, therefore, let us continually offer to God a sacrifice of praise--the fruit of lips that confess his name . And do not forget to do good and to share with others, for with such sacrifices God is pleased.

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

Gospel Reading –Luke 14: 1, 7-14

(Please stand for the reading)

When the reading is announced—**Glory to Christ our Saviour**

One Sabbath, when Jesus went to eat in the house of a prominent Pharisee, he was being carefully watched. When he noticed how the guests picked the places of honour at the table, he told them this parable: "When someone invites you to a wedding feast, do not take the place of honour, for a person more distinguished than you may have been invited. If so, the host who invited both of you will come and say to you, 'Give this man your seat.' Then, humiliated, you will have to take the least important place. But when you are invited, take the lowest place, so that when your host comes, he will say to you, 'Friend, move up to a better place.' Then you will be honoured in the presence of all your fellow guests. For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted." Then Jesus said to his host, "When you give a luncheon or dinner, do not invite your friends, your brothers or relatives, or your rich neighbours; if you do, they may invite you back and so you will be repaid. But when you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the

**All who
exalt themselves
will be humbled,**

and

**those who
humble themselves
will be exalted.**

Luke 14.11

blind, and you will be blessed. Although they cannot repay you, you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous." (Reader: This is the Gospel of Christ—**Praise to Christ our Lord**)

Post Communion Prayer God of our pilgrimage, you have willed that the gates of mercy should stand open for those who trust in you: look upon us with your favour that we who follow the path of your will may never wander from the way of life, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

Hymns (Please distribute Healing Holy Communion booklets and Hymns and Psalms)

1. Praise to the Lord 16
2. Kum ba ya 595
3. O Christ the healer 395 (Tune Heronsgate)
4. Father who in Jesus 607

Commentary

Jesus was criticized for his lifestyle, he was considered to be a heavy drinker and a glutton. It seems that he was only too willing to accept dinner invitations, even if they were occasions used by his enemies to trap him. For Jesus meals were an important occasion and they were about much more than devouring food. The meal was an occasion for talking and fellowship, and important things were said by Jesus in this public gathering. This was a society without radio television or newspapers and meals were often large occasions with many people listening and reporting what took place.

On the occasion reported in Luke today, Jesus is invited to dinner with a leader of the Pharisees. All eyes would be upon Jesus especially by those who wanted him to make a mistake. It would be understandable if Jesus had declined such an invitation but he does not, he is prepared to meet with everybody, even to eat in the company of those who wanted to trap him. Indeed, not only does Jesus turn up, he uses the occasion to heal on the Sabbath and takes the opportunity to tell a parable about the Kingdom.

It is not in the reading today but we are told in verses 2-7 that there was a man at the gathering who had dropsy, he would have swelling and be suffering from his condition. He might have been deliberately placed by the opponents of Jesus, as a challenge to see how Jesus would act. Would the man be healed by Jesus, or would Jesus respect the Sabbath? Notwithstanding the medical condition of the man it would be entirely reasonable for Jesus to make an appointment for the man to come back the following day, to avoid healing on the Sabbath. Instead Jesus faces his opponents head on and performs a healing, rules are not more important than compassion.

It is then afterwards that Jesus taught a parable which is part of our Gospel reading today. The thrust of the teaching is as follows,

"all who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted."

Perhaps at the meal Jesus noticed people jostling and trying to take the best seats. We know that Jesus frowned upon people who liked to glorify themselves and he had particularly strong words for the Pharisees. Remember this passage from Matthew Chapter 23:1

'Then Jesus said to the crowds and to his disciples: "The teachers of the law and the Pharisees sit in Moses' seat. So you must obey them and do everything they tell you. But do not do what they do, for they do not practice what they preach. They tie up heavy loads and put them on men's shoulders, but they themselves are not willing to lift a finger to move them. "Everything they do is done for men to see: They make their phylacteries wide and the tassels on their garments long; they love the place of honour at banquets and the most important seats in the synagogues; they love to be greeted in the marketplaces and to have men call them 'Rabbi.'

Jesus had harsh words for those who held high positions and who sought elevation of their position over others. advancement of their own. Christians should be people who are voluntarily

humble and modest. If we seek pride of place and vainly pursue our own ambition, then eventually we are likely to find ourselves subject to embarrassment and shame. This is an important lesson in life. But the teaching of Jesus is more far reaching, if we behave in such a way we will anger God and bring upon ourselves his judgement. God does not favour the proud, rather he brings them low and exalts the humble and the meek. Anything we consider ourselves to possess worth boasting of is not ours by personal merit, it is a gift and grace of God.

Then Jesus went on to speak about who we should invite to dinner. Jesus is saying that in God's Kingdom the rules of order and importance are very different. Christians should be concerned with those whom society does not esteem, because God cares deeply for those who are treated badly. If we care for those who are unloved and uncared for then In doing such a thing we will ourselves find blessing. At the time of Jesus the poor, the crippled, the lame and the blind were examples of groups that Christians should be concerned with. This was because they were treated badly and thought to be a lower class of person. The crippled, lame and blind were forbidden to serve as priests because of their physical imperfections (Lev 21:17-23).

To a certain extent this is always the way in which the poor are thought of, but each generation has other groups which are marginalized. The words of Jesus are challenging because his words are not about who we say prayers for, or who we donate money towards. Jesus demands action at a most fundamental level, who we eat with.

Jesus is not against hospitality towards our families and friends, but he is making very clear the point that those who do good to their relations and friends but are tight fisted to the poor, are certainly not praiseworthy, for they are not exercising love, but thinking only of themselves. Caring for others has nothing to do with mutual return, liberality which is given in the pursuit of personal gain is something to be ashamed of. Such deeds have their own reward and will not be congratulated or rewarded by God. Rather, they are blessed who give without hope of any earthly reward, it is they who carry out God's work.

God calls Christians to participate in an the values and principles of the Kingdom. When we do so we are blessed by God, not in a material, but a spiritual way. We store up riches in heaven, even if we are broke on earth! We should seek to please God, not other people. "

Charles Royden

Meditation

True godliness is an apparently reckless investment in the parts of the world that beg for attention in real need, but that show no potential of paying back dividends. Yet, Jesus promises that God sees and that God will pay the interest on an investment.

Prayers for Sunday and the week ahead

Lord, teach us that your Son died to save us, not from suffering but from ourselves; not from injustice, but from being unjust; and not from dying but so that we might die to ourselves; and this we ask through the same Christ our Lord. Amen

George Macdonald 1824-1905

Gracious God, whose only desire it is that men and women will come from the east and from the west, from the north and from the south and will sit down together at the feast of your Kingdom; have mercy on those of Abrahamic faith, whether they are Jews, Christians or Muslims, and grant that they may behold in you the one God and Father of all, and see in each other only those created in your own image and likeness; and that thus beholding and seeing they may turn aside from all evil and violence and, with one mind, undertake that ministry of reconciliation which you have committed to them; for to you belongs all honour, all glory and praise, now and for ever. Amen

Norman Wallwork

News, Views and Information

“What Shall We Do Now” Workshops at Priory Methodist Church on Saturday 11 September. To book phone Eleanor Mackirdy Tel 360271. See poster and flyers in church foyer for more details

Riding Lights on Saturday 9 October 7.30pm At Putnoe Heights Church, Bedford.

Riding Lights Theatre Company presents the PRISON & CHURCH TOUR 2004 of ‘Hope Opera’ The Stuff of Life

Imagine a kitchen in a house down the road from you. A mismatched group of people trading tales of their great scrapes and escapes. Pushing bags of the white stuff around a table with scarred and tattooed fists. It’s flour, of course. They’re making bread.

This is a place where people live their own stories; where sharing your story could open a window on eternity. Hope Opera’s a place at that table, with the mix of heroes and hopeless cases: a boy with nothing but tattoos to his name, a girl whose curiosity got the better of her, a man made of anger. Extraordinary stories told in extraordinary ways... colourful, moving, unforgettable, Hope Opera stops you in your tracks, turns things round, and starts you off in new directions. A remarkable blend of grit and grandeur, masks and music, getting a grip on the stuff of real life.

Connections Counselling Service (Christians Offering Professional Counselling) opens it’s new centre at 22 Foster Hill Road on 11 Sept. 4 – 6pm Invites anyone interested to join them for the official opening by the Bishop of Bedford.

Thank you to Judith Stanton and her supporters who have donated £110 to St Mark’s raised at their last Whist Drive.

Offertory Envelopes Members of the Envelope Scheme at Putnoe Heights Church are invited to collect their pack of envelopes for the year beginning 5 September 2004 from the table in the welcome area. We are grateful to all who use the scheme to make a regular contribution to the ongoing work of the church.

If you are not already a member of the scheme and would like to have a set of envelopes, please speak to John Hitt after morning worship, or telephone him on Bedford 404186.

Spurgeon’s Could you spare a few hours once a fortnight to befriend a young person living in foster or residential care ? Training given and out of pocket expenses paid. For more details Tel.01234 330866 or email ivpworker@spurgeonsbedford.org.uk

Junior Church Outing—Whilst there is no Junior Church during August we will be holding our annual afternoon out, this year to Wicksteed Park. The trip will take place straight after Family Service on 5th September 2004. For further information watch this space or contact Sam Ware at Putnoe Heights or 313181.

Air-Conditioning at Putnoe Heights. It has been agreed to engage Northants Refrigeration to install an Air-Conditioning system in the Church. However, the scheme is subject to Planning Permission being obtained and this will hopefully be granted in the coming weeks. We will endeavour to keep you updated with our progress.

Bedford YMCA are seeking an honorary treasurer, to oversee the control of Bedford YMCA’s finances and to provide financial advice. This involves attending a meeting each month to monitor and report on the finances of the association. The accounts associated administration and day to day financial activities of the association are all carried out by paid staff of Bedford YMCA. If interested please contact Tony Gratton (Chief Exec.) on 01234 307802

‘Harmony Books’ is having to close down by the end of September. Mary Shaw set it up 20 years ago to promote Religious & Racial understanding. Mary has a huge stock of excellent books which is in imminent danger of being destroyed as waste unless individuals or organisations take advantage of the opportunity to acquire quality material at favourable terms. Please do visit or call Mary (210298)

New Partnership Youth Group Starts Soon! TNT explodes into life! Our new Partnership youth group TNT (The Nearly Teens) has its first meeting on Sunday 5th September. The group, which is open to anyone aged 5-13 who attends our churches, will meet once a fortnight at Putnoe on Sundays 6-7.45pm. A wide range of sporting activities, craft, music, games, quizzes, parties and much more is planned. The first meeting will be a BBQ with games. Offers of help with the BBQ warmly received! Please phone Joan 344536.

Bereavement Support Group. You will know that we are fortunate to have a well-established Pastoral Team in the Partnership. From early September, the Team will be extending their care by offering an afternoon each week, at St Mark's, especially aimed at those who have been bereaved. The first "Drop-In" afternoon will be on Wednesday September 8th, from 2.30-4pm. We would welcome people from our own congregation who would be willing to help by making tea or chatting to our guests. Many of you know the pain of bereavement and would be of great help in listening to and supporting others. For further details, please contact Mary Stubbs, 406784

St Mark's Scoops Lottery Grant. After many unsuccessful applications to the Lottery Fund, St Mark's heard this week of the award of £4,200 towards safe all weather surfacing of the children's playground.

Brickhill Parish Council Meeting. To be held at St Mark's Church Community Centre on Monday 6 September at 7.30pm. Amongst many other things, this meeting will display plans of the new housing development and it is hoped the Planning Department will be represented.

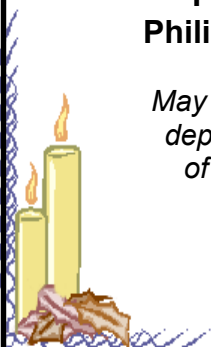
With great sadness we heard this week of the death of Doris Cook at Steppingly Hospital. Doris had returned to hospital after a deterioration in her condition after having enjoyed some months at home in her bungalow. Doris was a much loved and loyal member of St Mark's Church and a person greatly admired for the manner in which she bravely faced her illness. Our thought and prayers are with the family. A service will be held at St Mark's Church on September 6 at 3.15pm

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.

**Phyllis May Peachey
Philip Christopher Hartwell**

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 Simon Jones and Deborah Hammond of the parish of St Andrew's Church, Bedford and on the electoral roll of this parish

The following funerals have been arranged

The funeral of John Ernest Gibbons will take place on 2 September at Bedford Crematorium at 11.30am

The funeral of Barbara Diana Irvine will take place 31st August at Clapham Methodist Church at 1.30 pm

The funeral of William Henry Willson will take place at Bedford Crematorium on Friday 3 September at 12.15pm