



Methodist
Church

Partnership News

29 June 2008

Ordinary 13



Church of
England

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 Holy Communion with PCH

Preacher - Revd Dr Joan Crossley
Leadership Team - Mrs Linda Parry
Intercessions - Mr Richard Ledger

11.00am Putnoe Heights - Holy Communion

Preacher - Revd Dr Joan Crossley
Leadership Team - Mrs Linda Hoar
Intercessions—Mr Eddy Peck

6th July - Ordinary 14

9.30am St. Mark's - Family Worship with Baptism of Hattie Alison

Preacher -
Leadership Team -
Intercessions -

11.00am Putnoe Heights- Family Worship

Preacher -
Leadership Team -
Intercessions -

Bible Readings

1. Zechariah Chapter 9 : 9 - 12
2. Romans Chapter 7 : 15 - 25a
3. Matthew Chapter 11 : 16 - 19, 25 - 30

Thank You

The flowers at Putnoe Heights this week have been given by Mrs Sam Ware for the ladies of God Talk and for the young people of TXT.

The flowers at St Mark's this week have been given to celebrate the marriage of Julie Gilbert and Elvis Veira.

Anyone who wishes to donate flowers on a particular Sunday in the next few months is invited to enter their name(s) on the rota on the notice board in the welcome area at Putnoe Heights Church.

Prayer for Sunday

God of all power and truth and grace
You call your church to love and praise.
Inspire us with zeal for your gospel,
And grant us boldness to proclaim your word,
That we and all the world
may praise your name;
Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Methodist Worship

Contact Details

The Reverend Dr. Sam Cappleman

107 Dover Crescent, Bedford MK41 8QR
266952 Fax- 402624 NSM@ThisisChurch.com
(Sam also works full time as a General Manager for Hewlett Packard)

The Reverend Dr. Joan Crossley (Day off Friday)

30 Cutcliffe Grove, Bedford. MK40 4DD.
Home 344536 Crossley@thisischurch.com

The Reverend Charles Royden (Day off Thursday)

The Vicarage, Calder Rise. MK41 7UY
309175 Mobile 07973 113861 vicar@thisischurch.com

For Data Protection Purposes

Please note that any items submitted for inclusion in Partnership News will automatically be posted on our website.

Partnership News is also archived on our
church website www.ThisisChurch.com

Partnership Pastoral Support Team Co-Ordinator & Churchyards Administrator

Mrs Mary Stubbs 406784 Mary@Thisischurch.com
*Please inform us if you know of anyone who is ill, bereaved,
housebound, requires a visit, home communion or counselling services.
Please also ask us if you would like a home visit for any reason.*

Putnoe Heights Church Centre

Open 9am—5pm Monday to Friday

Tel/fax & Answering Service 365630 putnoe@thisischurch.com

Centre Manager Mr Barry Snelson 365630 & 344417

Leadership Team Mrs. Wendy Nash 357119

Treasurer Mr Ian Morse 216428 treasurerph@thisischurch.com

Gift Aid Administrator - Mr John Hitt 404186

Youth & children's worker - Mrs Spavins 302349

youth@thisischurch.com

St. Mark's Church Centre (Open 9am - 5.00pm)

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

Centre Manager Miss Wendy Rider 332613

Leadership Team - Mr Mike Cooper 306751

Treasurer - Mr Ian Farthing 210892 treasurer@thisischurch.com

Gift Aid Administrator Mr Williams 360605

Regular Weekly Activities - A Guide To Our Churches

Monday

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

Headteacher Mrs Janet Smith ☎326685

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

Headteacher Mrs. Helen Harpin ☎312634

(See website for more details)

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

10.00am Bakers Barn Art Group. St Mark's

Mr Kellie ☎721063

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

6.15 pm Brownies Putnoe. Sharon Tanner ☎07720712735

6.15 Pilates at Putnoe Heights Jane Butcher 300859

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

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

7.15pm Yoga. Putnoe Heights Lena Holland ☎244970

7.30pm Whist Drive. St Mark's 3rd & 5th week each month. Next meeting 30 June Judith Stanton. ☎823313

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

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

Tuesday

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

2.15pm Putnoe Heights Women's Fellowship. Next meeting 1 July 'Women of the Bible' Betty Wyatt ☎350188.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

7.30pm Putnoe Heights Ladies Tuesday Club - Meets fortnightly. Next meeting July 1st -Outing Audrey Wilkins ☎365068 or Margaret Gentle ☎309043

Wednesday

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Luncheon Club. Putnoe Heights fortnightly. Next meeting 18 June 2008 Putnoe Heights Office ☎365630

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

1.00-3pm Police Surgery at Putnoe Heights .

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

1.45 Scots Society Whist monthly .All welcome Nancy Barr 268147

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

7.00pm Putnoe Guild Putnoe Heights monthly Janice ☎Loxley 347073

7.00pm U3A Sky at Night 2nd Wednesday of the month. Mr Farish ☎824984

7.45pm Badminton Club Putnoe Heights All welcome.

Ken Marriott ☎214867

8.00pm Tudor Reeds Folk Dance Club St Mark's, 1st, 3rd & 5th Wednesday. Next meeting 2 July 2008 Graham ☎406359 or Alan ☎345312.

8.00pm Bedford Wine and Social Club St Mark's 1st week in the month. Mrs Gansfield ☎215016
7.45 for 8pm God talk—women's group monthly meeting
11 June for worship and friendly chat at Wendy Nash's
Contact Majella Atkinson ☎325293

Thursday

9.30am Thursday Prayer Group. Putnoe Heights in the quiet room. 26 June will be at 14 Flint Way. Sylvia Cohen ☎343424

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

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

9.45am Yoga Putnoe Heights Lena Holland ☎244970

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

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

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

1.30pm Toddler Playtime. Putnoe Majella Atkinson ☎325293.

2pm Putnoe Bridge Club. Gerald Palmer ☎345991

5.30pm Police Surgery. St Mark's Foyer.

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

6.15pm Brownies. Putnoe Heights Helga Nash ☎218521

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

7.00pm Club 2000 Putnoe Heights
Nina Ovenden ☎825059

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Friday

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

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

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

2.00pm U3A Gardening Group Putnoe Heights Eve Whitehead ☎356875

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

7pm Bedford Arts Society fortnightly Putnoe Heights

from 8 September. Malcolm Smith ☎01234 400741

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

Contact PC Dave Hawkey ☎349179

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

Saturday

9.00pm Stars School of Dance. Putnoe

Esther Sancto ☎295862 or ☎07917 582468

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

1.30pm Young Embroiders bi monthly Terry Fletcher Tel 357198

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

Sunday

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

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

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

6pm T.N.T. Putnoe. For 9-12 year olds (fortnightly) join us for fellowship, fun, games & outings. Next meeting 13 July at 6pm. A trip to Wild Britain at Wilden. Adults £5.50, under 16's £4. Please see Liz ☎302349 if you can come ASAP.

Diary Dates



St Mark's Church Council –,
18 November

St Mark's Leadership Team –
23 June

Putnoe Heights Leadership Team –

Putnoe Heights Children & Youth Committee

Putnoe Heights Management Meetings 14th July.

St Mark's Church Forum Meeting -

, 11 July, 9 September, 12 November all at 12 noon

Putnoe Church Council - 6 October.

Pastoral Group Meeting - Monday September 30th at 4.30pm

Churchyard Committee - November 12th 2008 at 11am

Putnoe Heights Mission Group –

Partnership Council - May 13th at St Mark's

Brickhill Parish Council Meetings -

Deanery Meeting - 18 September, 13 November
Circuit/Deanery Meeting

Woodland Burial Trustees -

Mission Group Meeting

Putnoe Heights Children & Youth– Monday 30th June at 1.10

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

Ordinary 13

Opening Verse of Scripture- Romans 12:11

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

Collect Prayer for the Day

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

First Bible Reading - Genesis 22: 1-14

Some time later God tested Abraham. He said to him, "Abraham!" "Here I am," he replied. Then God said, "Take your son, your only son, Isaac, whom you love, and go to the region of Moriah. Sacrifice him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains I will tell you about." Early the next morning Abraham got up and saddled his donkey. He took with him two of his servants and his son Isaac. When he had cut enough wood for the burnt offering, he set out for the place God had told him about. On the third day Abraham looked up and saw the place in the distance. He said to his servants, "Stay here with the donkey while I and the boy go over there. We will worship and then we will come back to you." Abraham took the wood for the burnt offering and placed it on his son Isaac, and he himself carried the fire and the knife. As the two of them went on together, Isaac spoke up and said to his father Abraham, "Father?" "Yes, my son?" Abraham replied. "The fire and wood are here," Isaac said, "but where is the lamb for the burnt offering?" Abraham answered, "God himself will provide the lamb for the burnt offering, my son." And the two of them went on together. When they reached the place God had told him about, Abraham built an altar there and arranged the wood on it. He bound his son Isaac and laid him on the altar, on top of the wood. Then he reached out his hand and took the knife to slay his son. But the angel of the LORD called out to him from heaven, "Abraham! Abraham!" "Here I am," he replied "Do not lay a hand on the boy," he said. "Do not do anything to him. Now I know that you fear God, because you have not withheld from me your son, your only son." Abraham looked up and there in a thicket he saw a ram caught by its horns. He went over and took the ram and sacrificed it as a burnt offering instead of his son. So Abraham called that place The LORD Will Provide. And to this day it is said, "On the mountain of the LORD it will be provided."

(This is the Word of the Lord - **Thanks be to God**)

Second Reading - Romans 6: 12-23

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

eternal life. For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. (This is the Word of the Lord - **Thanks be to God**)

Gospel Reading - Matthew 10: 40-42 Please Stand '**Glory to Christ our Lord**'

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

(This is the Gospel of Christ—**All: Praise to Christ our Lord**)

Post Communion Prayer

O God, whose beauty is beyond our imagining and whose power we cannot comprehend: show us your glory as far as we can know it, and shield us from knowing more than we can bear until we may look upon you without fear; through Jesus Christ our Saviour. Amen

Hymns (*Please distribute Holy Communion with Christian Healing, Hymns and Psalms*)

1. Praise to the Lord 16
2. For the healing of the Nations 402
3. There's a wideness in God's mercy 230
4. Forth in thy name 381

Commentary

The short reading from Matthew's Gospel is part of the speech Jesus made when preparing to send out his disciples to evangelise the world. So not much of a demand was being made then: just to bring the whole world to a knowledge of Christ and his mission! How they must have squirmed! How they must have wondered if they were up to the challenge! They must have asked themselves whether Jesus has made an error in sending them off to do the task. The speech by Jesus is typically radical. He is saying that they are to be his envoys and that welcoming or rejecting him is the same as welcoming God. They probably had not seen themselves, frail and ill-prepared as they felt themselves to be, as being a stand in for Jesus. We modern day Christians are the direct successors of those first disciples and must pick up their task of telling the story of Jesus to the world. It is an awe-inspiring thought. I don't know if you think of yourself as an evangelist? You probably wouldn't want to give yourself such an exalted title. But that is what we are called to be, just as that disparate band of tax-collector, fishermen, carpenters and manual workers were called to be. And just as they knew they would encounter difficulty and hostility on the road, so might we. Jesus offers a surprising view on how people are rewarded for their efforts: it is not an obvious reward which they receive in this life. We are unlikely to be met with pats on the back or rounds of applause when we tell people about our faith. Jesus told the disciples, as he tells us, that we might find the task challenging and hard, but that the job is of such importance that anyone who recognises this, even in a trivial way, such as with a cool drink on a hot day, will reap a heavenly reward. *Rev Dr Joan Crossley*

Meditation

My treat this week was to pop into an exhibition on the Orient in European Art. The show was all about how travellers perceived the Middle East from the seventeenth century onwards. These intrepid travellers braved disease, bandits and hostile terrain to go to the Holy Land. When they arrived there, they encountered a dramatically different landscape, bright, arid, practically treeless. The Holy Land was a huge shock in every way. The traveller from Britain and France also encountered an entirely new religion, in Islam which they struggled to understand. . They were at once attracted and repelled by the people and focussed on the decadent life style of the Pasha with his harem. Middle Eastern people were caricatured as being lecherous (why else would they not allow their women to show their faces?); they were portrayed as being cruel (there are several images of slave markets in the exhibition). In short, although the travelling artists

thought they were being honest when they painted Middle Eastern subjects, they were influenced by the ideas they brought to bear on the place and its people. I can only compare this to being introduced to someone whom you have had described to you as being rude, sarcastic and critical. You might find it hard not to interpret every word from their mouth in the light of this prior "knowledge". In our daily lives we often experience this problem, of pre-judging a situation or a set of people. We know what we expect to find and so we do find it. I will admit that it is very hard not to make assumptions and have prejudices, especially as we get older. With experience and weariness we take short cuts to sum up people and situations and we might well jump to the wrong idea. It is right as Christians to continually re-evaluate. It is important that we allow the Holy Spirit, always moving and directing us to change us. God cannot work in us if we are entrenched in our ideas. We must be faithful but not bigoted. It is a balance that we need to continually strike in ourselves. *Rev Dr Joan Crossley*

Prayers for Sunday and the week ahead

Christ who has nourished us, is our peace. Strangers and friends, male and female. Old and young have broken down the barriers to bind us to him and to each other. Having tasted his goodness, let us share his peace. Amen

O God, we bring you our failure, our hunger, our disappointment, our despair, our greed, our aloofness, our loneliness. We cling to others in desperation or turn from them in fear. Strengthen us in love. Teach us, women and men to use our power with care. We turn to you, O God, we renounce evil, we claim your love, we choose to be made whole. Amen (Monica Furlong)

May the road rise to meet you. May the wind be always be at your back. May the sun shine warm upon your face. May the rains fall softly upon your fields until we meet again. May God hold your in the hollow of his hand. Amen, (*Gaelic Blessing*)

We see you in the compassionate ways of those who accept us no matter how inadequate or different we may be.

We see you in the loving ways of those who love us unconditionally.

We see you in the sacrificing ways of those who give of themselves.

We see you in the forgiving ways of those who forgive our unforgivable ways.

We give thanks that you have revealed yourself to us and that the You we see in Jesus we can also see in those around us in our daily lives.

O God, you give us life, you call each of us into faithful service, discipleship in Jesus Christ. Open our hearts in ways that we might reach out to those-especially those who are so different from ourselves-and in so doing, may the world be transformed through your love, enlivened through our lives. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.



Mother Teresa of Calcutta was asked how it was that she could continue to tend the sickest and most wretched of the poor in the slums of Calcutta, India. Mother Teresa said that as she looked at each person for whom she was caring she tried to imagine that she was tending the Lord Jesus' wounded body – His nail-scarred hands, feet, and side. And so it was that in each act of caring, the Kingdom of God embraced and even reached out through Mother Teresa as she welcomed Christ in her neighbour and as she embraced the neighbour as if that person were the Lord Himself! God remembers each act of hospitality.

Living Life to the Full - an evening for women. Sat 5th July. 7pm -10pm. Woodside Church, Dover Crescent. Speaker Bev Murrill. £5 per person. For more information and to book visit www.kingsarms.org/girlsnight or call 07935 326130 (book by 3rd July)

Future Dates for your diary. 'The partnership Summer Musical Workshops !!! - a mixture of story, music, dance, drama, crafts & fun. Tuesday 19 August 2– 4 pm 'Its Raining Cats and Dogs' aimed at the under 5's with carers. Tuesday 26 & Wednesday 27 August 10am—3pm 'The 7 Days of Creation' 5 years plus, all abilities . Full details to from Liz.

Church Lunch Club (alternate Wednesdays) Would any members of St.Mark's or Putnoe Heights like to come. If you are interested, please give your name to - Margaret Standley, Jenny Emsley or Pam Kinsella. We would also welcome additional helpers, either on a regular or irregular basis. We also need drivers. With the building work in progress at Putnoe, our Autumn Session will not start until 1 October but don't leave it until then to let us know.

Many thanks to Judith Stanton whose whist drive members have once again held an event for St. Mark's church and raised £140.

Footprints walk on Sunday 6th July. Meet at the Crown Inn, Little Staughton at 2.30pm for a 4 mile, fairly level walk. For further details please contact Alan and Jean Kirk 317699

'Behind Closed Doors' a play about the issue of trafficking. In place of evening service at Priory Methodist Church 13th July 6.30pm

Methodist Homes for the Aged. Thank you to everybody who gave to this worthwhile charity.

'The Great Gappo' (children's entertainer) joins Storybox and Storybox Plus on Monday 28 July at Putnoe Heights. Meet at `12 for a sandwich lunch. Tickets £2 in advance from Liz. All welcome.

NCH We are delighted to acknowledge receipt of £142.51 which was raised at the Car Boot Sale. NCH today is involved in many aspects of child and family care. We work with nearly 500 projects around the UK helping over 178,000 children, young people and their families. It is only through the support of people like yourselves that we are able to meet new childcare needs.

CRUSE Bedfordshire is running A course to explore Grief, Bereavement and Loss to be held at

St John's Hospice, Moggerhanger between 13th September and 18th November. For Further Details contact Petra Waker, The Yews, 25 Bedford Road Northhill, Biggleswade Beds SG18 9AL tEL: 01767 627340

In April 2007 the County Council's Macmillan Welfare Rights Service was launched. The

Service is funded by Macmillan Cancer Support to provide benefits advice to anyone affected by cancer, their carers and families across Bedfordshire. Nationally, Macmillan Cancer Support estimate that 54% of people with a life threatening illness do not claim the disability benefits they are entitled to receive.

During the 2007/08 the Macmillan Welfare Rights team:

Held 137 outreach / drop-in sessions across Bedfordshire (hospitals, day centres)

Made 756 home visits

Advised and assisted people affected by cancer to claim benefits/grants worth an extra £2.2 million

Gained an average of £2,085 in benefits/grants per person

The Service covers the whole of Bedfordshire and there is a dedicated contact number (01234)

276948 (ext. 44948 internal) or email:

MacmillanWRS@bedscc.gov.uk

See Round Please note that copies of See Round, the St Albans Diocesan monthly magazine are available this morning.

Work in Progress. Our apologies to any groups who have been inconvenienced by the work at Putnoe which is taking place to enlarge the hall and kitchen.

Trudy and Avril say Thank You to everybody who kindly sponsored them in their ladies midnight walk. This was in aid of St John's Moggerhanger. A total in excess of £70,000 was raised for this worthwhile cause. We are grateful for your generous support.

Table Top Thank you to everybody who helped with the table top sale at Putnoe Heights Church. The event attracted many buyers and sellers and helped us raise funds.

Rotas for the next quarter are available at St Mark's this morning. Please make any changes which you require and we will print of copies for next week.



Telecare

It is extremely helpful if members of the congregation are enrolled in Telecare, especially if you are elderly or live alone. This pastoral support network assists the ministers in finding out when people have not be able to come to church for a while. It is important that we keep in touch and it is so much appreciated by the ministers when members of the congregation help us in this way. A quick telephone will be made every couple of weeks by a small group of our pastoral support team. They make the calls from St Mark's Church office. As well as making a friendly call from the church, there have been times when they have alerted the ministers to really important situations of pastoral need. It might be something they have discovered when talking to somebody, such as a forthcoming visit to hospital. It might just as easily be something which we had forgotten or not noticed, such as a person who has not been able to come to church for a few weeks. Please help us keep in touch—join Telecare. Just ring St Mark's office and give your name, or tell one of the ministers.



Back to Church Sunday. Our churches are both joining in with 'Back to Church Sunday.' Last year 2,000 churches joined in and this year the St Albans Diocese is signing up. We will have our Harvest Festival on 'Back to Church Sunday' which is 28 September. we will use this as an opportunity to welcome people to our churches for a special Sunday. How you can help! This special Sunday will soon be upon us and we need to start praying and planning now. Back to Church Sunday is a special time to invite people along to church with a special welcome. Please think of people we can send a personal invitation to and advise the ministers or a member of the Leadership Team.



St Mark's Coffee Shop 2.30pm—5.00pm

The coffee shop will be open this week but will then be closed until further notice. The Church Council has agreed that the coffee shop may open in the future for special occasions



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.

Peter Sachro

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



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Rest in Peace

There are no funerals this week