



Methodist
Church

Partnership News

2 April 2006

5th Sunday in Lent

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



Church of
England

Church Services Today

8.30 Holy Communion both churches
9.30am St Mark's Church - Family Worship
 Preacher - Revd Dr Joan Crossley
 Leadership Team - Mrs Janet Day
 Intercessions - Mrs Alison Holden
11.00am Putnoe Heights - Family Worship with Baptism
 Preacher - Revd Dr Joan Crossley
 Leadership Team - Mr Dave Allen
 Intercessions - Dr Tim Wilkes

9th April - Palm Sunday

8.30 Service of Holy Communion
9.30am St Mark's Church - Morning Worship
 Preacher - Mr Alan Davis
 Leadership - D Shephard
 Intercessions - Alison Holden
11.00am Putnoe Heights - Morning Worship
 Preacher - Mr Alan Davis
 Leadership Team - Mrs Jenny Emsley
 Intercessions - Mrs Sylvia Cohen
Reading 1 : Isaiah 50:4-9a **Reading 2** : Hebrews 5:5-10
Reading 3 : John 12:20-33

Rev Dr Sam Cappleman is taking worship this morning at Park Road Methodist Church.

Thank You

The flowers at Putnoe Heights Church this week have been given by Pat and Frank Tuffin to celebrate their Golden Wedding Anniversary and Frank's birthday.

The flowers at St Mark's this week have been given by Milly Rollinson in memory of her mother.

We are always grateful for any donations for flowers perhaps to celebrate a special occasion, an anniversary or in memory of a loved one. Please contact Miss Marion Prior 303254 (St. Mark's) or Miss Jennie Cooper 404950 (Putnoe Heights).

Prayer for Sunday

Almighty God, your Son came into the world to free us all from sin and death. Breathe upon us with the power of your Spirit, that we may be raised to new life in Christ, and serve you in holiness and righteousness all our days; through the same 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 Neil Bramble-Chapman BA, CTM
 (Day off Friday)
 12 Hartop Close, Putnoe. MK41 8HE
 326643 Mobile -07917 356062 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 Youth and Children's Worker
 Mrs Liz Spavins 302349 youth@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 - 12 noon Monday & Friday
9am - 5pm Tuesday/Wednesday & Thursday
Tel/fax & Answering Service 365630 putnoe@thisischurch.com
Centre Manager Mr Barry Snelson 365630
Leadership Team - Mrs Sue Allen 407264
Treasurer Mrs Kathryn Morse 216428
 Treasurerph@Thisischurch.com
Gift Aid Administrator - Mr John Hitt 404186
Junior Church Co-ordinator - Mrs Liz Spavins 302349

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 - Mr Ian Farthing 210892
Treasurer - Mr John Day 295592 treasurer@Thisischurch.com
Gift Aid Administrator Mr Jim Williams 360605

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

Regular Weekly Activities - A Guide To Our Churches

Monday

9.30 - 12.00 pm Mon-Fri Putnoe Heights Pre-school Mrs Janet Smith 326685

9.30 - 5.30 pm Mon-Fri St Mark's Pre-school Mrs. Helen Harpin 312634

(See website for more details)

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

Mini-Strikers Sport for Children at Putnoe aged 2-4 years. Contact Andy Carey 01908 313751 or 07766 142754, or www.ministrikers.co.uk

12.00pm - 1.00pm Story box Putnoe Heights church welcome the under 5's and their carers to join them between 12noon and 1pm for a sandwich lunch followed by a Bible story, singing and activities. Lots of fun, donations. Contact Liz on 01234 302349

4pm Story Box Plus at St. Marks for 4 -11 year olds meet at 3.30. for refreshments & games, then till 5pm make props, sing & rehearse a short play to perform in church the 1st Sunday of each month. Lots of fun. Free. Contact Liz 302349

4.15pm - Rosemary Conley Diet & Fitness. Putnoe Heights. Miriam Adcock 01908 565044

4.15 - 5.45pm Kumon Maths at Putnoe Heights. Contact Ms Raksha Mistry 01908 392698

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

6.15 pm Brownies Putnoe. Penny Fulham 406045

7.30pm Sugarcraft Guild meets first Monday every month at St. Mark's Mrs Pauline Parrott 768419

7.15 m Guides -St. Mark's. Mrs Gill Lake 218091

7.15pm Yoga at Putnoe Heights Church. Contact Karen Simpson 244970

7.30pm Creative Needles at Putnoe Heights. Jacky Hayward 307648. New members welcome.

7.30pm Whist Drive - At St Mark's each month the next 17 April Mrs. Judith Stanton. 823313

7.30pm Housegroup 30 The Ridgeway. The home of Eddy & Margaret Peck 267567.

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

Tuesday

9.30am Candlewicking (Needlework) at Putnoe Heights. Mrs Olive Shotbolt 267203

10.00am Keep Fit at Putnoe Heights. Mrs Stileman 822230

1.30-3pm Toddlers Playtime at Putnoe Heights. Geraldine Skeel 406828

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

2.00pm Library Walk W.I. at Putnoe Heights meets monthly. Contact Morag Tompkins 356895

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

2.15pm Putnoe Heights Women's Fellowship - Next meeting 4 April Mrs .A. Broomhall Contact Betty Wyatt 350188.

2.15pm Putnoe Heights Men's Fellowship. Next

meeting 11 April with Women's fellowship contact Lawrence Wyatt 350188.

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

2.30pm Tuesday Afternoon Housegroup. Meets fortnightly at St. Mark's. Mary Stubbs 406784.

3.45 - 5.30pm Stars School of Dance at Putnoe Heights. Esther Sancto 272517 or 07917 0582468.

6.30 - 7.30pm Yoga at Putnoe Heights. Rachel Leontyne 783129

6.45pm Guides at Putnoe Heights. Emma Holloway 293792

7.00 - 8.00 pm Keep Fit at St. Mark's. Mrs Jan Gregory 214107.

7.00 - 10pm Card Makers Club meets fortnightly at St Mark's. Carol Houghton 346718

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

7.30pm Dog and Puppy Training at Putnoe Heights. Contact Lynn Southwell 07974 743240

7.45 pm Putnoe Heights Ladies Tuesday Club - Meets fortnightly. Next meeting 4 April talk about the Air Ambulance Service Alison Horsley. Contact Madge Walsh 359088

Wednesday

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

9.30am - Body Control Pilates at Putnoe Heights. Stephanie Smith 357787.

9.00 a.m. Clubhouse at St Mark's for those with Learning Disabilities. Contact Karen Bywater 315460.

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

Luncheon Club at Putnoe Heights fortnightly. Next meeting 5 April Putnoe 365630

1 - 3pm Police Surgery at Putnoe Heights .

1.30 - 4.00pm. Bridge Club for the Retired at St. Mark's. Mrs Truss Boyce 781133

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

4.15pm - Kumon Maths at Putnoe Heights Ms Raksha Mistry 01908 392698

6.00pm Self Defence at Putnoe Mr James 07711 687449

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

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

7.00pm Archaeological & Local History Society meets monthly at Putnoe Heights. Next meeting . Sylvia Woods 365095

7pm Putnoe Guild meets monthly at Putnoe Heights. Janice Loxley 347073

7.45pm Kick Boxing Junior classes at St Mark's. Contact Mr James 07711687449 or 07810234890

7.45pm Badminton Club at Putnoe Heights - all welcome. Ken Marriott 214867

Thursday

9.30am Thursday Prayer Group at Putnoe Heights in the quiet room. Sylvia Cohen 343424 *Request for prayer can be written in the prayer diary on the information table.*

9.30am Jo Jingles at St. Mark's. Music & movement for pre-school children. Jayne Phillips 01582 485333

9.45am Yoga at Putnoe Heights. Karen Simpson 244970

1.00pm - 3.00pm Clinic at St. Mark's 267444

12pm Story box St Mark's Church welcome the under 5's and their carers to join them between 12 noon and 1pm for a sandwich lunch followed by a Bible story, singing and activities. Lots of fun, donations. Contact Liz Spavins on 1234 302349

1.30-3pm Toddler Playtime at Putnoe. Geraldine Skeel 406828

1.30pm St. Mark's Church Toddler Group. Debbie Coppenhall 356828.

2pm - Putnoe Bridge Club. Gerald Palmer 345991

2.30 Bedford Arts Society at St. Mark's. Celia Maddison 782901

2pm U3A Indoor Games at Putnoe Radmila Dancer 404811

4.00 Story box Plus at Putnoe Heights for 4-11 year old. Meet at 3.30 for refreshments & games. Then till 5pm make props, sing & rehearse a short play to perform in church on the 1st Sunday of each month Lots of fun And it's free! Liz Spavins 302349

5.30 - 7.30pm Police Surgery. St Mark's Foyer.

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

6.15pm Brownies at Putnoe Helga Nash 218521

6.15pm Bedford Junior Chess Club. St. Mark's Mr & Mrs Pike 823795

7pm Street Dance at Putnoe Heights. Contact Curtis Ritchie 349255 or 07984 525147

7.00pm Club 2000 at Putnoe Mrs M White 404992

7.30pm - 11.00pm Bedford Senior Chess Club at St Mark's Mr P Housden 376597

7.30 - 9.30pm Embroiderer's Guild at St Mark's 3rd Thursday of the month. Mrs E Rigby 344442

7.30 - 9.30 Tabernacle of Truth Church at Putnoe Bible Studies every 2 Thursday- Pastor Tarr 360188

7.45pm. Housegroup- Meets fortnightly at 3 Little Headlands. Newcomers always welcome. Betty Wyatt 350188

8.00 - 10pm Bedford Writers Circle meets at St Mark's 1st Thursday each month. Mr John Broadhouse 740271

Friday

9.30am U3A Exercise at Putnoe Heights. Carole Maunder 301325

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

1.30 - 2pm Stars School of Dance at Putnoe. Contact Esther Sancto 272517 or 07917 582468

2pm U3A Gardening Group at Putnoe Heights.

6pm Self Defence at Putnoe. Mr James 0771 687449 or 07810 234890

7.30pm Youth Club for age 13-18 at St Mark's Church. Contact PCSO Rowland Gilbey 349179

Saturday

9.30 - 11.30am Stars School of Dance at Putnoe. Contact Esther Sancto 272517 or 07917 582468

10.00am - 1.00pm Theatre Train at St Mark's - dancing acting, singing. - Kate Randle 01234 782414

2.30pm Calligraphy Group at Putnoe. Meets monthly next meeting. Philip Jones 350295

7.15pm - 10.30pm Duplicate Bridge at St Mark's Contact Ann or Peter 212066

Sunday

Junior Church with crèche for under 3's

9.30 - 10.30 at St.Mark's

11-12 at Putnoe Heights.

1 - 4pm Tabernacle of Truth Church at Putnoe Heights - Worship. Contact Revd. Tarr 360188 Mob. 07866775515

6.00pm TNT (The Nearly Teens) meet fortnightly at Putnoe Heights for various fun activities. Contact Putnoe Office 365630

Diary Dates

St Mark's Church Council 14 June, 11 Oct
Circuit Meeting

St Mark's Leadership Team - 24 Apr, 6 June, 12 Sept

Putnoe Heights Leadership Team - 2 May

St Mark's Church Management Meeting

Putnoe Heights Management - 15 May, 17 July

Putnoe Church Council 12 June, 9 Oct

Pastoral Group Meeting -

Churchyard Committee - 11 April

Putnoe Heights Mission Group Meeting- at 7.30 on 26 April at 14 Flint Way.

Partnership Council - 19 Sept

Brickhill Parish Council - 27 Apr,

Deanery Meeting St Mary's Eucharist 22 June, 14 September, 16 November

Annual Congregational Meeting 7 May 2006

Putnoe Heights Children & Youth - 26 Apr, 28 June

Calendar dates appear on our church website www.ThisChurch.com. Please advise St Mark's Church Office of the dates of your meetings.

Fifth Sunday of Lent Year B

First Sunday of the Passion

Verse of Scripture Psalm 51:10

Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me

A Collect Prayer - Before we read we pray

Most merciful God, who by the death and resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ delivered and saved the world: grant that by faith in him who suffered on the cross we may triumph in the power of his victory; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen *Methodist Worship*

Amen

First Reading - Jeremiah 31: 31-34

"The time is coming," declares the LORD, "when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah. It will not be like the covenant I made with their forefathers

when I took them by the hand to lead them out of Egypt, because they broke my covenant, though I was a husband to them," declares the LORD. "This is the covenant I will make with the house of Israel after that time," declares the LORD. "I will put my law in their minds and write it on their hearts. I will be their God, and they will be my people. No longer will a man teach his neighbour or a man his brother, saying, 'Know the LORD,' because they will all know me, from the least of them to the greatest," declares the LORD. "For I will forgive their wickedness and will remember their sins no more."

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

Second Reading - Hebrews 5: 5-10

Every high priest is selected from among men and is appointed to represent them in matters related to God, to offer gifts and sacrifices for sins. He is able to deal gently with those who are ignorant and are going astray, since he himself is subject to weakness. This is why he has to offer sacrifices for his own sins, as well as for the sins of the people. No one takes this honour upon himself; he must be called by God, just as Aaron was. So Christ also did not take upon himself the glory of becoming a high priest. But God said to him, "You are my Son; today I have become your Father." And he says in another place, "You are a priest forever, in the order of Melchizedek." During the days of Jesus' life on earth, he offered up prayers and petitions with loud cries and tears to the one who could save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverent submission. Although he was a son, he learned obedience from what he suffered and, once made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him and was designated by God to be high priest in the order of Melchizedek.

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

Third Reading - John 12: 20-33

Now there were some Greeks among those who went up to worship at the Feast. They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, with a request. "Sir," they said, "we would like to see Jesus." Philip went to tell Andrew; Andrew and Philip in turn told Jesus. Jesus replied, "The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. I tell you the truth, unless a kernel of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains only a single seed. But if it dies, it produces many seeds. The man who loves his life will lose it, while the man who hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life. Whoever serves me must follow me; and where I am, my servant also will be. My Father will honour the one who serves me. "Now my heart is troubled, and what shall I say 'Father, save me from this

The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel. Jeremiah 31.31



hour'? No, it was for this very reason I came to this hour. Father, glorify your name!" Then a voice came from heaven, "I have glorified it, and will glorify it again." The crowd that was there and heard it said it had thundered; others said an angel had spoken to him. Jesus said, "This voice was for your benefit, not mine. Now is the time for judgment on this world; now the prince of this world will be driven out. But I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all men to myself." He said this to show the kind of death he was going to die.

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

Post Communion Prayer

Lord Jesus Christ, you have taught us that what we do for the least of our brothers and sisters we do also for you: give us the will to be the servant of others as you were the servant of all, and gave up your life and died for us, but are alive and reign, now and for ever. **Amen**

Hymns Please distribute Mission Praise

1. Holy Holy holy Lord God almighty 237
2. I'll go in the strength of the Lord (on service sheet) (Tune: In the strength)
3. Like a mighty river flowing 419
4. All my hope on God is founded 16 (Tune: Michael (Howells))
5. To God be the glory 708

Commentary

You could argue that the Bible is one long battle between the arrogance of humans and the desire of God to draw close to us. Looked at from the point of view, the whole emphasis on Covenant becomes clearer. What is the Covenant except an agreement for Man to recognise that in he needs God, and God reminding Man that He will always be with humanity? In Jesus the Hebrew Bible Covenant is renewed and remade but the promise remains the same. God will be faithful to mankind but we must live according to the standards laid out for us in the Bible and especially in the example of Jesus.

The trouble is that we humans are foolish, prone to think we know better than God and that we can live without Him. We are selfish, and prefer to love ourselves better than our neighbour. And so we need all the time need to remind ourselves, and be reminded, that we need God. We also need the help and support of other Christians. It is very hard to live a Gospel-based life without support, inspiration and the corrective influence of other Christians.

This dialogue between human pride and God's purpose is a theme which runs through much of the Bible and is detectable in all the three readings this morning. Through the inspiration of the prophet Jeremiah, God speaks of his desire to renew the Covenant. The writer says that God has bound himself to his people as a husband is bound to his wife, contracted and faithful. But God wants his Law to be parts of the hearts and minds of the people, knit into the fabric of their very bodies. The relationship with God is not to be abstract "out there" but part of the fabric of our bodies and permeating through every aspect of our lives.

The reading from Hebrews is a short extract from a long and complicated discussion on the nature of Jesus' ministry. In particular the concept of Jesus as a High Priest is considered. What is the nature of that priesthood? How does Jesus surpass all other priests and prophets? Our short scripture passage stresses Jesus' perfect obedience to God's will. Although Jesus had the privileges of a son, he did not exploit his advantage but always chose the way of self-sacrifice and submission to Divine Will.

In the quite long passage from John's Gospel there can be found again the theme of obedience to God's will, Jesus willingness to submit to it. Almost casually there is slipped in mention of an extraordinary religious experience, witnessed by a crowd of people including the disciples. A voice from Heaven answered Jesus' prayer "Father Glorify your name" The voice replied "I have glorified it and will glorify it again". The act which would proclaim God's power and glory would be through Jesus' giving of himself. The disciples were confused, the crowd were disappointed at the idea that Jesus the Christ would die. It is all very simple, Jesus would draw men to God through his death and resurrection. He would be that seed that would apparently die to produce many more seeds. But Jesus had to give himself in an unimaginably brave way for that greater good to be achieved. He is a model for obedience.

Meditation

In the All age Worship today, I shall be using as an illustration the classic French folk tale of Beauty and the Beast. The wonderful Disney film of 1991 is much loved by the younger members of the church and so is useful for putting across a key theological theme. In the brief address this morning I shall talk about the film and how The Beast and the heroine Belle, "Beauty", need each other to help them to learn how to be better.

Beast is cross and difficult but has a caring, protective nature which Belle brings out. Belle is impulsive and inclined to be demanding. By having to get along, they both improve as a people and overcome their faults. This is a helpful way of seeing the Christian community: as a place where we can grow spiritually and develop as people. By worshipping alongside other Christians, working with other Christians for the glory of God, we are modified and, hopefully, become better. It isn't always easy to go through the process of growth, but it is a priceless aid in spiritual development. **Joan Crossley**

Prayers for Sunday and the week ahead

O Lord our God whose might is without compare and whose glory surpasses understanding, whose mercy is without measure and love of men beyond telling; look on us, Master, according to your tenderness of heart, on us and all we love; and deal with us, and all for whom we pray, in the riches of your mercy and compassion. Amen (Adapter from the liturgy of St John Chrysostom)

We are the mediocre, we are the half-givers, we are the half-lovers, we are the savourless salt. Lord Jesus Christ, restore us now to the primal splendour of first love. To the austere light of the breaking day. Let us hunger and thirst, let us burn in the flame. Break the hard crust of complacency. Quicken in us the sharp grace of desire. Caryl Houselander

Lord Jesus Christ, who showed on this earth Your love for children: guide we pray, with Your Spirit, those who are called to the ministry of teaching: that nothing may hinder or children from growing in faith and love. Amen

It is undoubtedly true that if we could see and know ourselves as we are, we would be truly humble (Adapted from *the Cloud of Unknowing*) Lord help me to see who I am, and to understand who you might enable me to become. Amen.

Details of our Easter Services



St Mark's Church

Palm Sunday Family Service
Sunday April 9 at 9.30 am
With distribution of Palm Crosses

Good Friday Service
Stations of the Cross
Friday April 14 at 9.30am
Morning Family Worship
(With Coffee & Hot Cross Buns!)

Easter Day
Sunday April 16
Sunrise Service 6.30am
Holy Communion 8.30am
Family Communion 9.30am

Putnoe Heights Church

Palm Sunday Family Service
Sunday 9 April at 11.00am
With distribution of Palm Crosses

Maundy Thursday Service
Thursday 13 April at 7.30pm
Holy Communion

Good Friday Service
Stations of The Cross
Friday 14 April at 11.00am
Morning Family Worship
(With Coffee & Hot Cross Buns!)

Easter Day
Sunday 16 April
Holy Communion 8.30am
Family Communion 11.00am

Don't Forget Good Friday Special at Putnoe Church 12– 1.15 Easter Story, Singing, craft activities & light refreshments. Suitable for all ages, £1 donation per family.

News, Views and Information

Storybox Easter Arrangements at St Mark's

Thursday 6 April bring your own lunch, drinks provided. Thursday 13 April—No Meeting. Friday 14 April Good Friday Special at Putnoe Church 12– 1.15 Easter Story, singing craft activities & light refreshments. Suitable for all ages, £1 donation per family Thursday 20 April back to normal

Storybox Plus Easter arrangements at St Mark's

Monday 3 & 17 April No meetings. Thursday 6 April Activity afternoon 1.15– 2.45. Good Friday arrangements as for Storybox above. Monday 24 back to normal.

Storybox Easter arrangements at Putnoe

Monday 3 April bring own lunch, drinks provided. Mondays 10 & 17 April No Meeting. Friday 14 April Good Friday Special at Putnoe 12—1.15 Easter Story, singing, craft activities & light refreshments, suitable for all ages of children, £1 donation per family. Monday 24 April back to normal.

Storybox Plus Easter arrangements at Putnoe.

Monday 3 April Activity afternoon 1.15—2.45. Thursday 6 April No meeting, Good Friday arrangements as Storybox above. Thursday 20 April back to normal.

British Cardiac Patients Association (Zipper Club

Meets at 7.30pm on the 4th Thursday every 2nd month at Putnoe. Next meeting 27 April with a concert of WW11 songs performed by the 'Melodians'. All welcome .Further information Eileen Marriott 303834.

Footprints meets today at the Peace Pagoda Car Park, Milton Keynes , on V10 Brickhill St at 3pm (please note later start) 4 mile circular walk around Willen Lakes, Ouzel Valley and Grand Union Canal. Sue Allen 407264

Pam Crouch would like to thank everyone for their prayers, good wishes, cards & visits during her recent stay in hospital. She is home now and progressing slowly & hopes to be back with us soon.

Jim Gorrings will take his last service in the Circuit on Sunday 2 April at Priory. This will be followed by a presentation at 12.45pm and hot buffet lunch. The invitation extends to all circuit members. Further details from Sue Allen. Offers of desserts for the lunch will be welcome.

Easter Offering 2006 - The proceeds of your generous giving go to the Methodist Church Fund for World Mission, which enables grants, training for Mission Partners and other projects to be made. Please return your contributions in the envelopes

provided on Easter Sunday. Thank you. Margaret Standley

“The Apostle of Bedford “ Father John Priestley Warmoll (1830—1885) Bedford's first Roman Catholic Priest since the reformation. Talk by Jack Robbins (Bedford Archaeological & Local history society) Further details : Bedford 365095

Bedford Festival of Music Speech and Drama is looking for volunteers to act as stewards during festival week in March 2007. Several youngsters from the Church. The Festival is a registered charity and relies wholly on the support of volunteers to run this national renowned event. If you can spare a couple of days in March or would like to get more involved, please contact Viv Redford on 354211.

Plans and Rotas Please note the new rotas fro April - June are now available. We are always looking for new folks to join the rota, reading lessons or leading prayers. Please speak with one of the Ministers if you are interested.

Mildmay. Our churches recently sent £3,800 to Mildmay to help their work with people in the UK, Eastern Europe and sub-Saharan Africa with HIV and AIDS. The Methodist recorder last week featured an article about Mildmay and the financial difficulties which they face, especially given the difficult financial climate of the NHS. Dr Veronica Moss sent us the following response

Dear Sam,

Thank you for asking me about this. We have been very encouraged by the response we have had so far from Christian and even national press, and supporters. We are especially grateful to churches such as yours which have made Mildmay 'their' project for the year and shown such commitment to raising awareness as well as funding for our work throughout the year. From time to time we are forced into making special appeals, and over the past few months we have been feeling 'the pinch' as a result of the NHS cutbacks and also the downturn in general voluntary giving as a result of all the disasters that have occurred over the past 18 months or so. However, support such as yours gives us the foundation upon which to work, and we are enormously grateful to all the members for their on-going interest and prayers, as well as the actual giving. Please continue to pray for us, for wisdom in decisions we make, for the skill to be good stewards of what we are given and for the vision to see what God wants us to do in each situation we face.

Network Spring Craft Day Saturday 6 May at Priory Methodist Church. Wide choice of workshops. More information & booking forms from Pam Seymour 305695 or Eleanor Markirdy 360271 book by 6 April.

London NW District Women's Network

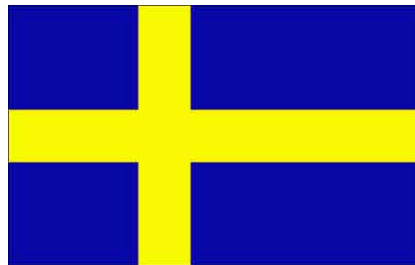
Celebration Service Saturday 20 May at 2.30 pm at West London Mission, Hinde Street, London.

"God's Story in Action" Bishop Richard and a team from the Diocese have put together a 6 week course including a DVD and course booklet. If you would like to order a copy for your group the cost will be £20. Please see Milly. Please note we now have a Partnership Copy which can be used by groups!

Putnoe Heights Tuesday Club invite you to join them at open meeting on Tuesday 4 April at 7.45pm. for a talk by East Anglian Air Ambulance Service. Admission £1 including refreshments. We will continue to collect mobile phones for them until 4 April.

For sale 3 year old Tricity-Bendix 2.5 cu ft. table top fridge with a small freezer compartment, excellent condition. Offers over £25, proceeds to Putnoe church funds. Sue Allen 407264.

Red Cross Jo Whitney would like to hear from anybody who would help with Red Cross Week from 7 - 13 May. They are looking for collectors to go house to house. Please contact Jo on 361060, if you can help.



Swedish Evening Saturday 6 May at 7.30 at St.Mark's. Tickets on sale shortly, pre-book them with Janet or Ian now.

Partnership Council meets 18 April at 7.30pm in the Chapel.

Fresh Expressions.org.uk

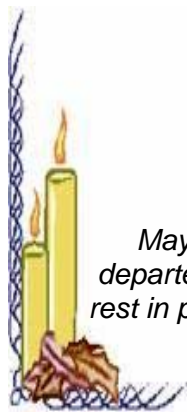
The Church of England and the Methodist Church are together committed to the initiative to develop fresh expressions of worship and being church. Many examples are found in Dioceses and Districts across the country. Our churches are committed to this. We now realise that if we fail to find new ways of what it means to be the church in our changing culture then our churches will be redundant in our country. For this reason fresh expressions encourages us to think of new ways to be mission led. So often we are tempted to look back to past times with fond memories, but are you able to think of fresh ways of being church?

Almighty God,
you call your people
to proclaim afresh in every generation
the good news of Jesus your Son.
By the power of your Spirit
rekindle in us gifts of courage
and compassion.
Open our eyes to see grace at work
beyond our churches.
Help us to work with you in building
new communities of faith,
fresh expressions of your constant love
in a changing and uncertain world.
For the building of your kingdom
and the glory of your name. Amen.

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.

**Anne Pavitt
Elsie Woods**



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

Rest in Peace



The funeral of Jane Elizabeth Little will take place on Friday 7 April, 10.45am at Bedford Crematorium. *Crossley*

The funeral of Elizabeth Alice Dutt will take place at Bedford Crematorium on Friday 21 April at 1.45pm *Royden*