



Methodist
Church

Partnership News

31 July 2005
18 in Ordinary

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



Church of
England

Church Services Today

8.30 Service of Holy Communion Putnoe
9.30am St Mark's Church -Holy Communion
with prayer for Christian healing
Preacher - Revd Dr Joan Crossley
Leadership - Mrs Janet Day
Intercessions - Mrs Margaret Appleton
11.00am Putnoe - Holy Communion
with prayer for Christian healing
Preacher - Revd Dr Joan Crossley
Leadership Team - Mr Dave Allen
Intercessions - Mrs Sue Allen
The Reverend Dr Sam Cappleman is preaching this
morning at Haines Parish Church

7 August 19 in Ordinary

8.30 Service of Holy Communion -St Mark's
9.30am St Mark's Church - Morning Worship
Preacher - Kate White
Leadership Team - Mrs Delia Shephard
Intercessions - Mr John Tatman
11.00am Putnoe Heights - Morning Worship
Preacher - Kate White
Leadership Team - Mrs Jenny Emsley
Intercessions - Mr Alan Bayliss

1 Reading - 1 Kings 19: 9-18 **2 Reading** -Romans 10: 5-15
3 Reading - Matthew 14: 22-33.

Thank You

The flowers at St Mark's this week are in
memory of Frank Solly, whose funeral took
place on Thursday

The flowers at Putnoe Heights Church this
week have been given by Betty & Lawrence
Wyatt, Claire & Richard Peck on their
respective wedding anniversary.

We are always grateful for any donations for flowers,
perhaps to celebrate 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

Lord, let me be yours. Let me not draw back,
neither from heaven, nor from your divinity, nor
from your cross. Let me be yours to whom I
owe my creation and my redemption. Touch my
heart and sanctify it, and consecrate me in your
service, for ever. Amen

Lucy Herbert, 1669-1744

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 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 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 - 5pm)
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

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).

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

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

12.00pm - 1.00pm Story box at Putnoe Heights. Service for parents/carers & children under 5. Children's activities songs and prayers, all in one hour from.

3.30 - 5pm Story box Plus at St. Mark's for 4 to 10 years. A preparation group for small drama on the first Sunday of the month. Contact for more details Liz Spavins 302349

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

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

6.15 pm Brownies Putnoe. Contact 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 one 8 August—Multiple Sclerosis—Barkers Lane Contact Mrs. Judith Stanton. 823313

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

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

Tuesday

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

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

10.00am Keep Fit at Putnoe Heights. Contact Mrs Stileman 822230

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

12 noon - 10.00 pm Slimming World at St. Mark's. Sessions start at 12, 1.30pm, 4pm, 5.30pm & 7.15pm Contact Val Careless 345213.

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

1.30pm Body Control Pilates at Putnoe Heights. Contact Stephanie Smith 357787

2.15pm Putnoe Heights Women's Fellowship - Next meeting 9 August Strawberry Tea.". Contact Mrs Betty Wyatt 350188.

2.15pm Putnoe Heights Men's Fellowship. Next meeting 13 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. Contact Mary Stubbs 406784.

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

6.45pm Guides at Putnoe Heights. Contact Emma Holloway 293792

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

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

7.30pm Bibleway Church at Putnoe Heights. Bible study & prayers. Contact Revd.Tarr 309881 or 07891095746

7. 45 pm Putnoe Heights Ladies Tuesday Club - Meets fortnightly. Next meeting 6 September Revd. Joan Crossley. Contact Madge Walsh 359088

8.30-9.30pm St. Mark's - Qi Gong (Self help healing group) - Contact Mr F Steele 355937

Wednesday

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

9.30am Bedford U3A at Putnoe Heights meets bi-monthly. Next meeting . Contact Jenny Coggins 266379

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 Height meets fortnightly. Next meeting 7 September Contact Putnoe Heights 365630

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

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

6.00pm Self Defence at Putnoe Contact Mr James 07711 687449

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

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

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

7pm Putnoe Guild meets monthly at Putnoe Heights. Contact Pam Holley 771964

7.45pm Kick Boxing Junior classes at St Mark's. Contact Mr James 07711687449 or 07810234890
7.45pm Badminton Club at Putnoe Heights - all welcome. Contact Ken Marriott 214867

Thursday

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

9.45am Yoga at Putnoe Heights. Contact Karen Simpson 244970

10.30am - 12.00am Fledglings at St Mark's
2.00pm - 3.00pm Clinic at St. Mark's Contact 267444

12pm Story box at St Mark's. Service for parents, carers & children under 5. Sandwich lunch, Bible Stories, Children's activities, songs & prayers, all in one hour from 12-1pm.

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

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

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

2pm U3A Indoor Games at Putnoe Heights. Contact Radmila Dancer 404811

4.00 Story box Plus at Putnoe Heights for 4-10year old. A preparation group for a drama for the first Sunday in the month.. Meets 4-5pm, drinks from 3.30pm Contact Liz Spavins 302349

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

6.15pm Brownies at Putnoe Heights . Contact Helga Nash 218521

7.00pm Club 2000 at Putnoe Height. Contact Pat Stidolph 345247

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

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

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

Thursday of the month. Contact Mrs K Sage 771525
7.45pm. Housegroup-Meets fortnightly at 3 Little Headlands. Newcomers always welcome. Contact Betty Wyatt 350188

8.00 - 10pm Bedford Writers Circle meets at St Mark's 3rd Thursday each month. Contact Mr John Broadhouse 740271

Friday

9.30am U3A Exercise at Putnoe Heights. Contact Carole Maunder 301325

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

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

7. 30pm Bibleway Young Peoples meeting Contact Pastor Tarr 376841

6.30pm -8.30 pm Dog Training Classes at St. Mark's. Contact Mrs L. Laton 365601

Saturday

9.30am Stars School of Dance at Putnoe Heights. Contact Esther Sancto 272517

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

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

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

Sunday

1- 3pm & 7-9pm Bibleway Church at Putnoe Heights - Worship. Contact Revd. Tarr 309881 Mob. 07891095746

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

Diary Dates

St Mark's Church Council
12 October

Circuit Meeting 14 September
Service of welcome of new

Methodist Minister at Oakley 31 August

Bedford Deanery Meeting 15 September

St Mark's Leadership Team - 4 October at Vicarage

Putnoe Heights Leadership Team July 21

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

Putnoe Heights Management

Putnoe Church Council 10 Oct 2005

Pastoral Group Meeting - 29 September 2.00pm

Churchyard Committee - 7 October at 4.15

Putnoe Heights Mission Group Meeting .
Partnership Council - 20 September at St. Mark's 7.30pm

Brickhill Parish Council 8 September, 26 September, 13 October

Visit of Bishop Christopher 23 October

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

Bible Notes

Ordinary 18 Year A (Trinity 9 Green)

Verse of Scripture Psalm 145:3

Great is the LORD and most worthy of praise; his greatness no one can fathom. One generation will commend your works to another; they will tell of your mighty acts. They will speak of the glorious splendour of your majesty, and I will meditate on your wonderful works.

A Collect Prayer - Before we read we pray

Gracious God, your Son Jesus Christ fed the hungry with the bread of life and the word of your Kingdom. Renew your people with your heavenly grace, and in all our weakness sustain us by your true and living bread, even Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

First Reading – Isaiah 55: 1-5

Come, all you who are thirsty, come to the waters; and you who have no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without cost. Why spend money on what is not bread, and your labour on what does not satisfy? Listen, listen to me, and eat what is good, and your soul will delight in the richest of fare. Give ear and come to me; hear me, that your soul may live. I will make an everlasting covenant with you, my faithful love promised to David. See, I have made him a witness to the peoples, a leader and commander of the peoples. Surely you will summon nations you know not, and nations that do not know you will hasten to you, because of the LORD your God, the Holy One of Israel, or he has endowed you with splendour."

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

Second Reading - Romans 9: 1-5

I speak the truth in Christ—I am not lying, my conscience confirms it in the Holy Spirit—I have great sorrow and unceasing anguish in my heart. For I could wish that I myself were cursed and cut off from Christ for the sake of my brothers, those of my own race, the people of Israel. Theirs is the adoption as sons; theirs the divine glory, the covenants, the receiving of the law, the temple worship and the promises. Theirs are the patriarchs, and from them is traced the human ancestry of Christ, who is God over all, forever praised! Amen.

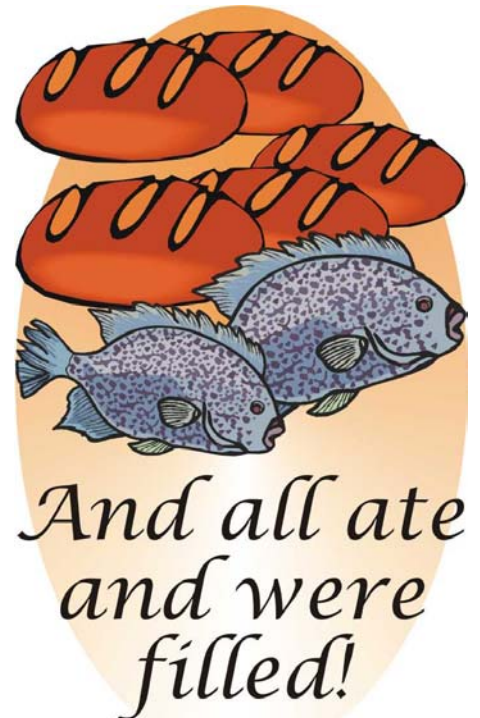
(This is the word of the Lord -- **Thanks be to God**)

Third Reading – Matthew 14: 13-21 Please stand

(After the Gospel is announced **All: 'Glory to Christ our Saviour'**)

When Jesus heard what had happened, he withdrew by boat privately to a solitary place. Hearing of this, the crowds followed him on foot from the towns. When Jesus landed and saw a large crowd, he had compassion on them and healed their sick. As evening approached, the disciples came to him and said, "This is a remote place, and it's already getting late. Send the crowds away, so they can go to the villages and buy themselves some food." Jesus replied, "They do not need to go away. You give them something to eat." "We have here only five loaves of bread and two fish," they answered. "Bring them here to me," he said. And he directed the people to sit down on the grass. Taking the five loaves and the two fish and looking up to heaven, he gave thanks and broke the loaves. Then he gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the people. They all ate and were satisfied, and the disciples picked up twelve basketfuls of broken pieces that were left over. The number of those who ate was about five thousand men, besides women and children.

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



Matthew 14.20

Commentary

Much of Christian history has been marked by humans struggling with the concept of the importance or lack of importance that should be given to the human body. By far the strongest prevailing trend was for the Church to preach against the body as being unclean and dangerous to spiritual progress. Cultural Commentary. Much of Christian history has been marked by humans struggling with the concept of the importance or lack of importance that should be given to the human body. By far the strongest prevailing trend was for the Church to preach against the body as being unclean and dangerous to spiritual progress. Cultural historians say that this loathing for the body was inherited from Judaism and was a reaction against the frank enjoyment of physicality displayed by the pagan Greeks and Romans. Whatever the root of this disdain for the body, it has had a tragic impact upon Christianity. We will hear in the sermon this morning about the frightening and bizarre lengths that some Christians went to to control and mortify their own bodies. It is one thing to practise self-discipline, but something quite different to use the body- bad/ soul-good argument to justify indifference to the sufferings of others. Human pain has sometimes been regarded callously as being good for the soul and unimportant alongside spiritual matters. We read in history books of people being tortured "to save their souls".

Jesus was certainly self-controlled. He ate and drank normally, he obeyed the fasts kept by Jews at set times and festivals. Although he did fast in the desert, he did so in the most private way. In fact Jesus had stern things to say about people who made a parade of their piety.

In regard to the sufferings of others Jesus always displayed the utmost concern and compassion. On many occasions we see the Lord tenderly ministering to the bodily ills of those who begged him for help. He healed the blind; the deaf and the lame and even allowed himself to be touched by a woman who was regarded by everyone else as contaminating and unclean.

Jesus shows his loving concern for the welfare of his followers in today's passage from St Matthew. When considering the need for the crowd to be fed, Jesus does not shrug his shoulders and say that going hungry for a night might be good for their souls. Neither does he say that fasting will help them concentrate. Jesus shows concern and love and gives the crowd what they need, nourishment and refreshment, so that they can get in with feeding their souls through his teachings. This is surely a highly significant parable. It reinforced Jesus' words that every hair of our heads is precious to God, and provides a challenge to Jesus' followers in every age: we must nurture and tend the bodies of our sisters and brothers, we must protect and honour their physical selves as well as tend their souls.

Dame Cicely Saunders, who died recently, found herself as a nurse, then as a doctor, confronting callousness from the medical profession towards the dying. Saunders recognised God's call to her to minister to the dying, to alleviate their pain and to tend to the needs of the soul. In doing so, Cicely Saunders was faithful to the spirit of the Gospel of Christ which treasures the people that God has made, body and soul. Joan Crossley

Meditation

Fund raisers speak, despairingly, of "compassion fatigue". This term is used to explain why charitable giving drops off after a sustained campaign of fund raising. People, it seems, just grow desensitised and accustomed to the sufferings of others. Perhaps we have grown too used to watching African children dying on the television. Sometimes, people even distort Jesus' words about "the poor being always with us" and use it as an excuse to write off suffering as inevitable and thus acceptable. The sufferings of his children are never acceptable to God. They are as painful to Him, as the pain of my children would be to me. We have to keep the idea of God's outrage at suffering at the forefront of our minds and make sure that we do not let anything else cloud our vision. Joan Crossley

Post Communion Prayer

God of our pilgrimage, you have willed that the gate 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

1. Praise to the Lord the Almighty 16 (Lobe den Herren)
2. Who took fish and bread (On notices) (Who took fish and bread)
3. Guide me O thou great 437 (Cwm Rhonnda)
4. Glorious things of thee are spoken 817 (Abbots Leigh)

Prayers for Sunday and the Week Ahead

***Prayer is a great weapon, a rich treasure,
a wealth that is never exhausted, an undisturbed refuge,
a cause of tranquillity, the root of a multitude of blessings
and their source.
St. John Chrysostom***

Heavenly Father who loves us, help us to love ourselves, and to love our neighbours as much as ourselves. Amen.

Creator God, we give thanks for the work of the Hospice Movement, and we pray for those who work with the dying and the suffering. We pray that they will be given strength and courage in their work, and inspiration to go forward in Your Name. Amen

O God our dance in whom we live and move and have our being: so direct our strength and inspire our weakness that we may enter with power into the movement of your whole creation through our partner Jesus Christ. Amen

A Nurses Prayer Sometimes Lord, I find it so hard, when people think I am so good, caring and loving, because I'm a nurse, they think I can cope with anything, anybody, anywhere, anytime and that my uniform makes me different. But on the inside I'm the same, I have fears that need your love to deal with them. I see pain and death, am I not meant to feel? For that's not love. Love feels, and is alongside. If I'm not feeling how can I show I really care. Help me to show I care in all I do and say Lord, live through me, that I may show Jesus to my patients and colleagues *Author Unknown*

News, Views and Information

NCH House to House Collection (Brickhill)

NCH, the children's charity, works with disadvantaged and disabled children, and their families, through its family centres located throughout the country. It is an independent charity working with other groups in partnership including the Methodist Church. The annual house-to-house collection to support the vital work of the NCH will take place as usual in the first 2 weeks in September. St. Mark's Church has the responsibility for covering most of Brickhill and last year we raised over £770; including gift aid. If you could spare a few hours during early September to put out and collect envelopes in the Brickhill area or would like more information contact *Mike Elliott (Tel. 342507)*

Storybox Plus starts at St Marks

Following the growing success of Storybox Plus at Putnoe we are very pleased to announce that we will be starting the group at St Marks. We will begin on Monday 12th September 3.30 start for refreshments and a chill out with a 4.00 start and 5.00 finish. During that hour we will read, study, and rehearse a Bible based story in preparation to perform at the Family Service on the 1st Sunday. We will also spend time making props for the play. Anyone between 4 (at school) and 10 can join us to make friends and have fun. As always the groups success will need volunteers if you can help with any aspect of our activities or have a child that would like to see what we are all about please phone *Liz Spavins on 302349*.

Welfare of pedestals! Thank you to anyone who waters the church flowers during the week. However, sometimes water gets into the black container which supports the flower bowl and then the pedestals rust very quickly. Could any kind souls, who do watering, only put water in the flower bowl and ensure you don't overfill and cause a puddle in the pedestal bowl. If you do overfill, please dry up with kitchen roll. Many thanks. Flower Team



Auction of Promises September 17 at St Mark's Church

Thank you to those who have offered fantastic promises, in aid of the Building Development to replace the Portakabin and provide accommodation for Autism Bedfordshire. Please contact Chris Izzard who is organising this event. Telephone 212164.

Promises already made

- Tailor made bespoke shirt (own choice of colour and weight of Egyptian cotton) Retail Value £75 Addison & Steel London
- Evening dinner for two [drinks/wines not included] Retail value £75 at St Helena, Elstow
- One week accommodation for up to six people in a holiday cottage in Exmouth (situated very near the sea on dates mutually convenient) Retail Value £260 Mr and Mrs Puttock
- Voucher for men's clothing Retail value £50 Claytons, The Arcade, Bedford.
- Day out in chauffeur driven vintage car (for up to 2 passengers) Mrs and Mrs Day
- Chauffeur driven tour in a vintage 2 seater Morgan car (for one passenger) Mr Waters
- Six hand made cross stitch Christmas cards Mrs Elliott
- Anfield Stadium Tour (Museum and tour centre for up to four people) LFC
- Two ornamental concrete garden plant pots
- Planted Hanging Baskets for Spring & Summer 2006. Retail value £50. C R Wilkinson & Son, Willington
- Various sizes / quantities of plastic flower pots
- Christmas Cake

What can you promise ?

Please think if there is anything which you can offer to our auction of promises. And don't forget the date to come along, bid and enjoy yourself ! Gardening, bake a cake, babysitting, drive somebody to the airport, decorate a room

Roots for Web The Partnership is subscribed to receive Sunday resources from rootsontheweb.com. There are also resources for children. Our user name is HBMG and our password is 331944

Putnoe Church Council. There will be a special meeting of Church Council on Sunday 14 August

immediately after the service. One item on the agenda.

Cards. There will be no card sales during August but if you would like a special one please see Marion.

Kasia Piecyk will be visiting Bedford from August 21st to September 3rd, She will be staying with me for most of the time and would welcome any visitors to see her. Due to our prior commitments she will need accommodation over the bank holiday weekend (26,27,28 and 29 August). Any offers?? Many thanks. Linda Parry.

Helen Parry is to marry Richard Wright here on Thursday 4 August at 10'clock. All friends are welcome at the church. Linda.

Card sales at Putnoe Heights are going very well. We are working towards raising £100 for St John's Moggerhanger. We are continuing to sell cards during August and we can also make cards to order. Tel 267567. Thank you for your continuing support. Margaret & Claire Peck

Sadly the Excelsior Singers from Barbados have decided that they do not now want to come to Bedford to sing at St Michael's. I must admit that the congregation at St Michael's are a little disappointed over this change in plan - those with a Barbadian connection are certainly more than a little miffed! A pity - it would have been an interesting evening! Best wishes Peter Littleford

The Thurleigh trip will take place on Sunday 21 August. Story box will continue at Putnoe on Mondays throughout August, older siblings and all from St.Marks are welcome(apart from tomorrow please bring a picnic lunch, drinks provided) Storybox Plus restarts at Putnoe on Thursday 8 September & starts at St. Mark's on Monday 12 September. Please note that we have increased the age of this group up to 10 years. For further details call *Liz Spavins 302349*

Mission Coffee Morning Saturday 13 August 10-12 noon at the home of Derrick Stoneham, 5 Braeside, Cakes and a raffle. In aid of Mission Funds.

Wanted Please could anyone lend me a travel cot for the 1 August. Donation to church funds. Thank you. *Delia 273628*

Visit by Bishop Christopher St Mark's Leadership team are arranging a social evening to welcome Bishop Christopher on Sunday 23 October. It will be a night not to be missed and one for your diary.

M.S.DESIGN RE-UPHOLSTERY SERVICE

Recovers, repairs, frame repairs, dining chairs,
new cushions, Foam cut to size, no job too small.
Friendly reliable service.
For a free quote call (01234) 317297

To advertise in Partnership News please send your advertisement to office@thisischurch.com, fax 01234 342613.
We are pleased to include advertisements for a small charge, when space is available.

A Hymn for Sunday

Who took fish and bread, hungry people fed?
Who changed water into wine?
Who made well the sick, who made see the blind?
Who touched earth with feet divine?
Only Jesus, only Jesus, only he has done this:
Who made live the dead? Truth and kindness spread?
Only Jesus did all this.

Who walked dusty road? Cared for young and old?
Who sat children on His knee?
Who spoke words so wise? Filled men with surprise?
Who gave all, but charged no fee?
Only Jesus, only Jesus, only he has done this :
Who in death and grief spoke peace to a thief?
Only Jesus did all this.

Who soared through the air? Joined his Father there?
He has you in me in view:
He, who this has done, is God's only Son,
And he's interested in you.
Only Jesus, only Jesus, only he has done this:
He can change a heart, give a fresh new start,
Only he can do all this.

Prayer for the Dead ?

It is said that Protestants don't and Catholics do. Calvin, the Protestant reformer of Geneva, had a woman whipped because she was discovered praying at the grave of her son and hence was guilty, according to Calvin, of "superstition." !

Pope Benedict XVI once said, "My view is that if Purgatory did not exist, we should have to invent it." Why? "Because few things are as immediate, as human and as widespread - at all times and in all cultures - as prayer for one's own departed dear ones."

Theologically it has been argued that the doctrine of the Communion of the Saints encourages us to pray for those who have died. Catholics note the scripture of 2 Maccabees 12:38-46, and some New Testament scriptures to justify their belief.. But, it is not a doctrinal imperative, it is simply a way in which we express love which transcends even death itself, we never cease to love those who have died, how can we cease to pray for them? *Charles Royden*

Rest In Peace

There are no funerals this coming week

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.

Mark Davies Barnwell
Frank William Solly
Mabel Selina Johnson

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

