



Methodist
Church

Partnership News

3 September 2006

Ordinary 22

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 at both Churches

99.30am St Mark's Church - Family Service

Preacher - Revd Dr Sam Cappleman

Leadership - Mrs Delia Shephard

Intercessions - Mr John Tatman

11.00am Putnoe Heights - Family Service

Preacher - Revd Dr Sam Cappleman

Leadership Team - Mrs Wendy Nash

Intercessions - Mrs Sylvia Cohen

St Mark's welcomes for baptism Stanley Dominey and Penelope Rose Brooker, their family and friends.

10 September Ordinary 23

8.30 Holy Communion at both Churches

9.30am St Mark's Church - Morning Worship

Preacher - Mr Richard Wycherley

Leadership - Mr Mike Cooper

Intercessions - Mrs Morag Stewart

11.00am Putnoe Heights - Morning Worship

Preacher - Mr Richard Wycherley

Leadership Team - Mr Dave Allen

Intercessions - Mrs Claire Peck

Reading 1 : Isaiah 35: 4-7a

Reading 2 : James 2: 1-17

Reading 3 : Mark 7: 24- end

Thank You

The flowers at Putnoe Heights Church this week have been given by Arthur Merryman, in memory of his wife, Vi, on their wedding anniversary.

The flowers in the church at St. Marks have been given by Janet & Brian Ibberson to celebrate the baptism of their precious granddaughter, Penelope Rose Brooker.

The flowers in the chapel have been given by Vera Pearson to celebrate 40 years of belonging to the Methodist Diaconal Order.

A Prayer for Sunday

Let my heart never cease
to worship you, O God.

Let my spirit be forever permeated
with your presence.

Let me always hear the voice of your
angels.

Let my soul be eternally lifted up
into the courts of your praise. Amen

Gregory of Nazianzus, 329 - 89

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

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 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 - 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 - Mr Alan Bayliss 268101

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 - Mrs Janet Day 295592

Treasurer - Mr John Day 295592 treasurer@Thisischurch.com

Gift Aid Administrator Mr Jim Williams 360605

Regular Weekly Activities - A Guide To Our Churches

Monday

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

8.30 - 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

2.30 - 4.30pm Bedford Arts Society at Putnoe Heights contact Malcolm Smith on 01234 400741 (weekly from 25 September 2006)

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 - 6.00pm 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 18 September 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 5 Sept. AGM For more details contact Betty Wyatt 350188.

2.15pm Putnoe Heights Men's Fellowship. Next meeting 5 Sept. 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. For details of next meeting contact 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

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 Sept 5 'Living in Queens Park - Revd J McLeod Contact Madge Walsh 359088

8.30pm St Mark's Church Qi Gong. Contact Mrs D Steele 356384

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

10.30 am U3A Art Appreciation meets fortnightly at Putnoe Heights - For details of next meeting Contact Audrey Hancock 365915.

Luncheon Club at Putnoe Heights fortnightly. For details of next meeting 6 September contact 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 - 6pm Kumon Maths at Putnoe Heights Ms Raksha Mistry 01908 392698

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
1.30pm - 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 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
4.00 Story box Plus at Putnoe Heights for 4-11year 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
8.00 - 10pm Bedford Writers Circle at St Mark's 1st Thursday each month. Mr John Broadhouse 740271

Friday

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 Contact Eve Whitehead 356875
7 - 10pm Bedford Arts Society meets fortnightly at Putnoe Heights from 8 September. Contact Malcolm Smith 01234 400741
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 Theatretrain 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
5 - 7pm Bethesda Church . Contact Pastor Denis Baka 07944 749357
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 , 11 October
Circuit Meeting - 28 September 7.30 Priory
St Mark's Leadership Team – 12 September
Putnoe Heights Leadership Team - 26 September
St Mark's Church Management Meeting - 12.30pm 11 October, 6 December
Putnoe Heights Church Management - 18 Sept
Putnoe Church Council 9 October
Pastoral Group Meeting –
Churchyard Committee -
Putnoe Heights Mission Group Meeting – Wednesday 18 October at 7.30pm at 14 Flint Way. .
Partnership Council - 19 September
Brickhill Parish Council - 14 Sept, 12 Oct,30 Nov
Deanery Meeting , 14 September, 16 November
Putnoe Heights Children & Youth - 4 September 7.30

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

Ordinary 22

Verse of Scripture

You love righteousness and hate wickedness; therefore God, your God, has set you above your companions by anointing you with the oil of joy. Psalm 45 v 7

Collect Prayer - Before we read we pray

Almighty and everlasting God, you are always more ready to hear than we to pray and to give more than either we desire or deserve: pour down upon us the abundance of your mercy, forgiving us those things of which our conscience is afraid and giving us those good things which we are not worthy to ask but through the merits and mediation of 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

First Bible Reading - Deuteronomy 4:1-2,6-9

Hear now, O Israel, the decrees and laws I am about to teach you. Follow them so that you may live and may go in and take possession of the land that the LORD, the God of your fathers, is giving you. Do not add to what I command you and do not subtract from it, but keep the commands of the LORD your God that I give you. Observe them carefully, for this will show your wisdom and understanding to the nations, who will hear about all these decrees and say, "Surely this great nation is a wise and understanding people."

What other nation is so great as to have their gods near them the way the LORD our God is near us whenever we pray to him? And what other nation is so great as to have such righteous decrees and laws as this body of laws I am setting before you today? Only be careful, and watch yourselves closely so that you do not forget the things your eyes have seen or let them slip from your heart as long as you live. Teach them to your children and to their children after them.

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

Second Reading - James 1:17-27

Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows. He chose to give us birth through the word of truth, that we might be a kind of first fruits of all he created. My dear brothers, take note of this: Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry, for man's anger does not bring about the righteous life that God desires. Therefore, get rid of all moral filth and the evil that is so prevalent and humbly accept the word planted in you, which can save you. Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says. Anyone who listens to the word but does not do what it says is like a man who looks at his face in a mirror and, after looking at himself, goes away and immediately forgets what he looks like. But the man who looks intently into the perfect law that gives freedom, and continues to do this, not forgetting what he has heard, but doing it--he will be blessed in what he does. If anyone considers himself religious and yet does not keep a tight rein on his tongue, he deceives himself and his religion is worthless. Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world.

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

Third Reading - Mark 7 (1-8, 14-15, 21-23)

The Pharisees and some of the teachers of the law who had come from Jerusalem gathered around Jesus and saw some of his disciples eating food with hands that were "unclean," that is, unwashed. (The Pharisees and all the Jews do not eat unless they give their hands a ceremonial washing, holding to the tradition of the elders. When they come from the market place they do not eat unless they wash. And they observe many other traditions, such as the washing of cups, pitchers and kettles.) So the Pharisees and teachers of the law asked Jesus, "Why don't your disciples live according to the tradition of the elders instead of eating their food with 'unclean' hands?" He replied, "Isaiah was right when he prophesied about you hypocrites; as it is written: "These people honour me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me. They worship me in vain; their teachings

are but rules taught by men.' You have let go of the commands of God and are holding on to the traditions of men." Again Jesus called the crowd to him and said, "Listen to me, everyone, and understand this. Nothing outside a man can make him 'unclean' by going into him. Rather, it is what comes out of a man that makes him 'unclean.'" For from within, out of men's hearts, come evil thoughts, sexual immorality, theft, murder, adultery, greed, malice, deceit, lewdness, envy, slander, arrogance and folly. All these evils come from inside and make a man 'unclean.'" (Reader : This is the word of the Lord. All: Thanks be to God)

Post Communion Prayer

God of all mercy, in this eucharist you have set aside our sins and given us your healing: grant that we who are made whole in Christ may bring that healing to this broken world, in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Hymns (Please distribute Mission Praise and Service sheets)

1. For the beauty of the earth, 152 2. He's got the whole world 225, 3. O for a heart to praise my God, 495 4. Lead us heavenly Father 400 5. Lord of the Dance (On Partnership News)

Commentary

In our readings from the Gospel of John over the past 3 weeks we saw Jesus teaching in the synagogue using the structure which would have been familiar to the Jews from the Midrash. This was their equivalent to our standard three point sermon. The Midrash tradition started with a verse of scripture, in our recent readings it was Jn 6 v 31, 'He gave them bread from heaven to eat' and then goes on to explain it in 2 sections. In the first part, Jn 6 v 32 – 48, He explained 'bread from heaven' and in the second part, Jn 49 – 58, He explained 'to eat'. In the Aggadah tradition of Midrash often one word is taken and changed slightly in the vowel structure, easily done as there are no explicit vowels in the Torah, and a different word created which then explains the meaning of the phrase of scripture. In this example, Jesus was perhaps playing on the word manna to change it to give a word with a different meaning which explained the difference between the bread which leads to life and the bread which led to death. It's a model we can use to give insight into today's readings too.

Ex 32 v 16 reads, 'The tablets were the work of God; the writing was the writing of God, engraved [graven] on the tablets'. The Jewish sages comment on this (Tractate Avot 6:2), "Do not read the word [graven] as 'harut', but as 'herut'". Herut means freedom. Thus as the Midrash explains the verse, when the Israelites received the 10 commandments in the desert they received freedom. 'The tablets were the work of God; the writing was the writing of God, freedom on the tablets'. True observance of the commandments is therefore understood to make someone free rather than to enslave them. It could also be implied that it was when the Jews received the 10 commandments that they were finally physically freed as a nation from the Egyptians.

In our reading from Deuteronomy, Moses exhorts the Israelites not to add or subtract anything from the law they have been given. In so doing they will be free and go in and take possession of the land they have been promised. In the reading from Mark, Jesus accuses the Jewish teachers of doing exactly what Moses, who embodies Jewish law, had commanded them not to do. They have made significant and extraneous additions to the original precepts of the law. As a result they are now far from free. The Pharisees claimed that the traditions of their elders safeguarded the law, but in fact it these traditions have resulted in people following a law that in some cases has little to do with the law as it was given to Moses. Isaiah said that their Jewish 'merchants mix water with the wine', implying that the elders had mixed their watery tradition with God's strict commandment and in so doing adulterated the law. Jesus clearly agrees. But before we cheer too loudly in condemning the failings of the Jewish tradition, we need to ask ourselves how many times down the years could Jesus' charge of 'You have let go of the commands of God and are holding on to the traditions of men' be levied at the Christian church? Rather than being a church which is free we can become a people who are governed by the strictures we have engraved for ourselves in our personal and community life.

As a New Testament people we are no longer under the law but under the freedom of grace. Jesus was, and continues to be, the fulfilment of the law. He also gave us in His teaching, the guiding principles for our salvation and our lives as a people of God, they very way of life. Just like the Jewish teachers before us it is easy for us to dilute these guiding principles to make our faith easier and more palatable to

ourselves and those around us. Similarly we can add our own interpretations and strictures so that our faith becomes more legalistic and programmed. True liberation in our faith comes from an ever closer walk with Christ and a living and love of His precepts. In the model of the Midrash, it is only by having His name engraved 'harut' in our lives we can find true freedom 'herut' in our lives. Jesus doesn't ask us to follow a set of laws, but invites us to follow His precepts, precepts which become increasingly embodied in our lives as we grow closer to Him. As we grow in our faith, so our lives become increasingly and inextricably linked with His through His redeeming sacrifice. *Sam Cappleman*

Meditation

"The codes of Israel reflect the norms of the covenant: reciprocal responsibility, mercy, and truthfulness. They embody a life in freedom from oppression: worship of the One God, rejection of idolatry, mutual respect among people, care and protection for every member of the social body. Being free and being a co-responsible community are God's intentions for us." US Bishops, Economic Justice for All (1986)

Prayers for Sunday and the Week Ahead

God our heavenly judge declares you innocent, not by your own righteousness, but by that of Jesus Christ, who came to earth to save us from our sins. Amen

God does not wish us to walk in darkness; in His mercy seat He has revealed to us the way of life. His word is a lantern to our feet and a light to our paths. Amen

Set our hearts on fire with love for you, O Christ our God, that in its flame we may love you with all our heart, with all our mind, with all our soul, and with all our strength, and our neighbours as ourselves, so that in keeping your commandments, we may glorify you, the giver of all good gifts. Amen
A Manual of Eastern Orthodox Prayers

May the almighty and eternal God sanctify and govern your hearts and bodies in the ways of His laws and the works of His commandments; that under God's protection, now and ever, you may be preserved in body and soul; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit be among you and remain with you always. Amen

By Daniel Badagbu, October 2005

One day I decided to quit...I quit my job, my relationship, my spirituality... I wanted to quit my life. I went to the woods to have one last talk with God.

"God", I said. "Can you give me one good reason not to quit?"

His answer surprised me... "Look around", He said. "Do you see the fern and the bamboo?"

"Yes", I replied. "When I planted the fern and the bamboo seeds, I took very good care of them. I gave them light. I gave them water. The fern quickly grew from the earth. Its brilliant green covered the floor. Yet nothing came from the bamboo seed. But I did not quit on the bamboo.

In the second year the fern grew more vibrant and plentiful. And again, nothing came from the bamboo seed. But I did not quit on the bamboo." He said. "In year three there was still nothing from the bamboo seed. But I would not quit.

In year four, again, there was nothing from the bamboo seed. I would not quit." He said. "Then in the fifth year a tiny sprout emerged from the earth. Compared to the fern it was seemingly small and insignificant...But just 6 months later the bamboo rose to over 100 feet tall. It had spent the five years growing roots. Those roots made it strong and gave it what it needed to survive. I would not give any of my creations a challenge it could not handle." He said to me. "Did you know, my child, that all this time you have been struggling, you have actually been growing roots?"

"I would not quit on the bamboo. I will never quit on you."

"Don't compare yourself to others." He said. "The bamboo had a different purpose than the fern. Yet they both make the forest beautiful." "Your time will come", God said to me. "You will rise high"

"How high should I rise?" I asked. "How high will the bamboo rise?" He asked in return. "As high as it can?" I questioned "Yes." He said, "Give me glory by rising as high as you can.

I left the forest and brought back this story. I hope these words can help you see that God will never give up on you.



News and Information

Barn Dance 4 November 6pm at Putnoe. Suitable for all ages. Details to follow. See Liz

Storybox starts again at St Marks on 7 Sept and Putnoe on 11 Sept. Storybox plus at Putnoe begins 7 Sept and the newly renamed Monday Club begins at St Marks on 11 Sept. If you would like to join any of our teams please contact Liz.

Junior Church The crèche at St Mark's will continue as normal thanks to Debbie. We will begin back as normal on Sunday 10 September. We hope to plan an outing, possibly to Wicksteed Park? following a Sunday Service in September please see Liz or Sam Ware if interested.

Fairtrade Display at 22 Mallard Hill, Bedford on Friday 22 September 7-9.30pm, Saturday 23, 2-5 pm and Sunday 24, 10am - 1pm. Entrance 50p including refreshments. There will be a wide range of Fairly Traded products including stationery, gifts, food, clothing and jewellery.

Members of the Envelope Scheme at Putnoe Heights Church are invited to collect their pack of envelopes for the year beginning 3 September 2006 from the table in the welcome area. We are grateful to all who use the scheme to make a regular contribution to the ongoing work of the church. If you are not already a member of the scheme and would like to have a set of envelopes, please speak to John Hitt after morning worship, or telephone him on Bedford 404186. We are particularly grateful to all the taxpayers who have completed Gift Aid declarations. This has enabled the church to recover more than £8100 in relation to income received in the tax year 2005/06.

Mediterranean Evening— St Mark's Church on 23 September. This promises to be a really good evening with Vittorio. Tickets available shortly. Adults £6.50, children under 12 £4. Tickets now available from Ian Farthing, Janet Day or St Mark's Church office. Do not delay in buying your ticket as they are selling out fast. Raffle prizes would be appreciated.

Coffee Morning Saturday 16 September from 10—12 at 16 Chillingham Green the home of Eddie & June McKenzie. Cakes, raffle etc Proceeds to the Mission Group African Projects.

Footprints Rambling Group invite you to join them on Sunday, 10th September for a 4-mile circular walk around Stevington. Please meet at 2.30pm in car park of the Royal George.

The entrance to the car park is in Court Lane, but as parking space is limited, car-sharing wherever possible would help. Parts of the walk could be muddy if the weather has been wet. Further details from Sue and Richard Butler on Bedford 354183.

Methodist Homes for the Aged.

Proposed North Brickhill Care Home Presentation to Brickhill Parish Council Thursday 14 September at St Mark's Community Centre, Calder Rise, at 7.45pm. Public Exhibition from 12 to 14 September also at St. Mark's. Phone St Mark's church office for more details.

Piano lessons: I have a few vacancies for new pupils for the coming year. Beginners and all ages welcome! Please contact me if you are interested. Adrian Quarry 409612.

Sunday morning coffee/tea at Putnoe Heights. A big thank you to Claire Peck who has offered to take over the role of co-ordinating the rota of helpers and organising supplies. Also to Jenny Snelson who has joined the team of helpers. More helpers are still needed. The greater the number the lesser the work. For further details contact Claire Peck .

Safeguarding. Janet Day will be responsible for ensuring that all people at St Mark's who are involved in any way with children or vulnerable adults have CRB clearance. Please contact Janet immediately if you do not have yours up to date.

Storybox plus would like to thank everyone who came to help us on Thursday for our Jonah Man Jazz activity day, last Thursday. The day was most successful and enjoyed by everyone who took part. We would like to invite everyone to our performance of Jonah Man Jazz after the service on Sunday 10th September. Liz & Carolyn.

Thank You- A really big thank you to everybody who took time to come to the welcome service at Priory Methodist Church. It was an historic occasion in many ways with Anne Brown speaking about the creation of the new district, and Bishop Christopher excited at our ecumenical vision in the circuit. Anne Brown paid tribute to our Partnership Churches where denominational labels were unimportant and we treasured our unity as Christians. I am so grateful to everybody for kind cards and messages of support and your continued prayers. I feel so very encouraged by you all and look forward to serving with you in our churches. Joan Crossley

Bedfordshire & Hertfordshire Historic Churches

-Sponsored Cycle Ride and Walk - Saturday 9 September 2006. 10am - 6pm. If you are interested in taking part, further details and sponsor forms are available from Alan Bayliss (Telephone 01234 268101)

Open the Book - Storytelling in Schools. With a new school term starting in September, the Open the Book teams will also begin going into primary schools in the Bedford area again, to tell and act out Bible stories during assembly. More storytellers are needed - it involves one hour per week, plus some preparation, during term time. If you are interested in joining on of the teams please come along to a meeting/training session to be held at Russell Park Church, Denmark Street, on Thursday, 14 September between 1.00 - 3.00pm., or speak to Diane Bayliss at Putnoe Heights Church. Please PRAY for this valuable outreach into our primary schools.

Support for Kisizzi

Thank you to everyone who sponsored Hannah to raise money for medical equipment for the Kisizzi hospital. As we mentioned when Hannah visited us earlier this month over £500 was raised towards equipment for the newly opened obstetrics and gynaecology unit however the administrator at the hospital in Kisizzi has requested that they may use the money we are sending to them to refurbish the pharmacy block, which is also the production unit for intravenous fluids. The Health Ministry has advised that this is necessary if the unit is to continue operation. We are therefore going with this and we can focus on the maternity unit in our Autumn project. Sam Cappleman

A Hymn for Sunday

I danced in the morning
when the world was begun,
And I danced in the moon
and the stars and the sun,
And I came down from heaven
And I danced on the earth,
At Bethlehem I had my birth.

Dance, then, wherever you may be,
I am the Lord of the Dance, said he,
And I'll lead you all, wherever you may be,
And I'll lead you all in the Dance, said he.

I danced for the scribe and the Pharisee,
But they would not dance
and they wouldn't follow me.
I danced for the fishermen, for James and John
They came with me and the Dance went on.

I danced on the Sabbath and I cured the lame;
The holy people said it was a shame.
They whipped and they stripped
and they hung me on high,
And they left me there on a Cross to die.

I danced on a Friday when the sky turned black
It's hard to dance with the devil on your back.
They buried my body and they thought I'd gone,
But I am the Dance, and I still go on.

They cut me down and I leapt up high;
I am the life that'll never, never die;
I'll live in you if you'll live in me -
I am the Lord of the Dance, said he.

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.

Derick Benson
Jeffrey Claude Fensome
Margaret Hartnett

*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 Joseph
Ebenezer James Bean**
will take place at Bedford
Crematorium on Thursday 7th
September at 3.15

pm *Crossley*

The funeral of Baby Freya Lily Russell will
take place at Bedford Crematorium on
Thursday 7 September at 1.45pm *Royden*

The funeral of Richard Howard White will
take place at Bedford Crematorium at 3.15pm
on Friday 8 September at 3.15pm *Royden*