



Methodist
Church

Partnership News

5 February 2006

Fourth Sunday before 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-Teddy Bear Service

Preacher - Revd Dr Joan Crossley

Leadership Team - Mrs Avril Williams

Intercessions - Mrs Morag Stewart

11.00am Putnoe Heights—Family Worship—Teddy Bear Service

Preacher -Revd Dr Joan Crossley

Leadership Team - Mr Alan Cooper

Intercessions - Mr Alan Bayliss

12 February 2006

8.30 Service of Holy Communion Both churches

9.30am St Mark's Church – Morning Worship

Preacher - Mr Paul Fricker

Leadership - Mrs Janet Day

Intercessions - Mr John Tatman

11.00am Putnoe Heights – Morning Worship

Preacher – Mr Paul Fricker

Leadership Team - Mr Dave Allen

Intercessions - Mrs Claire Peck

Reading 1 : 2 Kings 5: 1-14

Reading 2 : 1 Corinthians 9: 24-27

Reading 3 : Mark 1: 24-27

Thank You

The flowers at St Mark's this week have been given by Jill Williams in memory of her husband, David.

The flowers at Putnoe Heights Church this week have been given by Jill Williams in memory of her husband, David.

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

Grant to me, O Lord, a gentle spirit open to you; a generous mind open to all others and a loving heart worthy of being your dwelling place; through Christ our Lord. Amen

John of Kronstadt, 1829-1908

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.
- 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.** 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 20 February 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. Val Careless 345213.
- 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 7 February Revd. J. Gorringe Betty Wyatt 350188.
- 2.15pm Putnoe Heights Men's Fellowship.** Next meeting 7 February Joining with Women's Fellowship Revd. G Goringe .. 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.** 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. 45 pm Putnoe Heights Ladies Tuesday Club** - Meets fortnightly.at 7.45pm Next meeting 7 February Quiz Night . Madge Walsh 359088
- 8.30-9.30pm St. Mark's - Qi Gong** (Self help healing group) - Mr F Steele 355937

Wednesday

- 9.30am Childminding Support Group** at Putnoe Heights. Mrs S Longman 313949
- 9.30am - Body Control Pilates.** 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 8 February 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.** 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

8.45-9.45pm St. Mark's - Qi Gong (Self help healing group) starting Mr F Steele 355937

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 Heights. 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 Heights. 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 .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 Heights. Helga Nash 218521

7.00pm Club 2000 at Putnoe Mrs M White 404992

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

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

7.30 - 9.30pm Embroiderer's Guild St Mark's- 3rd Thursday of the month. Mrs K Sage 771525

7.30 - 9.30 Tabernacle of Truth Church Putnoe Heights 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 3 Thursday each month. 1 Thursday as from January 2006 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 Heights. Contact Esther Sancto 272517 or 07917 582468

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

7. 30pm Bibleway Young Peoples meeting Contact Pastor Tarr 360188

Saturday

9.30 - 11.30am Stars School of Dance at Putnoe Heights. 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 Heights. 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 8 February 2006

Circuit Meeting 16 March 2006

St Mark's Leadership Team - 2006 24 April, 6 June, 12 September

Putnoe Heights Leadership Team - 20 February, 2 Sunningdale Walk

St Mark's Church Management Meeting

All meetings to start 7.00pm

Putnoe Heights Management - 27 Feb, 15 May, 17 July 2006

Putnoe Church Council 6 February 2006

Pastoral Group Meeting - 6 February 2006 2.00pm

Churchyard Committee -

Putnoe Heights Mission Group Meeting-

Partnership Council -

Brickhill Parish Council -

Joint Deanery Circuit

Annual Congregational Meeting 7 May 2006

Putnoe Heights Children & Youth - 8 Feb, 26 April, 28 June

Calendar dates appear also on our church website www.ThisChurch.com.

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

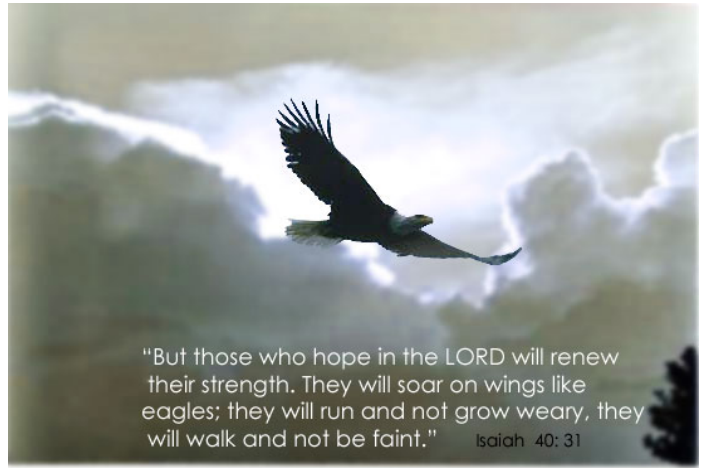
Bible Notes

Epiphany 4 Year B

Verse of Scripture

'whoever welcomes a little child in my name, welcomes me' (Matthew 18:5)

Jesus said 'I tell you the truth, unless you change and become like little children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.' (Matthew 18:3)



A Collect Prayer - Before we read we pray

Lord of the Hosts of heaven, our salvation and our strength, without you we are lost: guard us from all that harms or hurts and raise us when we fall; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. Common Worship Shorter

First Reading - Isaiah 40: 21-31

Do you not know? Have you not heard? Has it not been told you from the beginning? Have you not understood since the earth was founded? He sits enthroned above the circle of the earth, and its people are like grasshoppers. He stretches out the heavens like a canopy, and spreads them out like a tent to live in. He brings princes to naught and reduces the rulers of this world to nothing. No sooner are they planted, no sooner are they sown, no sooner do they take root in the ground, than he blows on them and they wither, and a whirlwind sweeps them away like chaff. "To whom will you compare me? Or who is my equal?" says the Holy One. Lift your eyes and look to the heavens: Who created all these? He who brings out the starry host one by one, and calls them each by name. Because of his great power and mighty strength, not one of them is missing. Why do you say, O Jacob, and complain, O Israel, "My way is hidden from the LORD; my cause is disregarded by my God"? Do you not know? Have you not heard? The LORD is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. will not grow tired or weary, and his understanding no one can fathom. He gives strength to the weary and increases the power of the weak. Even youths grow tired and weary, and young men stumble and fall; but those who hope in the LORD will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint. (Reader : This is the word of the Lord. **All: Thanks be to God**)

Second Reading - 1 Corinthians 9: 16-23

Yet when I preach the gospel, I cannot boast, for I am compelled to preach. Woe to me if I do not preach the gospel! If I preach voluntarily, I have a reward; if not voluntarily, I am simply discharging the trust committed to me. What then is my reward? Just this: that in preaching the gospel I may offer it free of charge, and so not make use of my rights in preaching it. Though I am free and belong to no man, I make myself a slave to everyone, to win as many as possible. To the Jews I became like a Jew, to win the Jews. To those under the law I became like one under the law (though I myself am not under the law), so as to win those under the law. To those not having the law I became like one not having the law (though I am not free from God's law but am under Christ's law), so as to win those not having the law. To the weak I became weak, to win the weak. I have become all things to all men so that by all possible means I might save some. I do all this for the sake of the gospel, that I may share in its blessings. (Reader : This is the word of the Lord. **All: Thanks be to God**)

Third Reading - Mark 1: 29-39

As soon as they left the synagogue, they went with James and John to the home of Simon and Andrew. Simon's mother-in-law was in bed with a fever, and they told Jesus about her. So he went to her, took her hand and helped her up. The fever left her and she began to wait on them. That evening after sunset the people brought to Jesus all the sick and demon-possessed. The whole town gathered at the door, and Jesus healed many who had various diseases. He also drove out

many demons, but he would not let the demons speak because they knew who he was. Very early in the morning, while it was still dark, Jesus got up, left the house and went off to a solitary place, where he prayed. Simon and his companions went to look for him, and when they found him, they exclaimed: "Everyone is looking for you!" Jesus replied, "Let us go somewhere else—to the nearby villages—so I can preach there also. That is why I have come." So he travelled throughout Galilee, preaching in their synagogues and driving out demons. (Reader : This is the word of the Lord. **All: Thanks be to God**)

Post Communion Prayer

Go before us, Lord, in all we do with your most gracious favour, and guide us with your continual help that in all our works begun, continued and ended in you, we may glorify your Holy name, and finally by your mercy receive everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Hymns (Please distribute Mission Praise and Teddy Bear special service sheet)

1. Love divine all loves excelling (449 Mission Praise)
2. The Magic Penny..... (Love is something if you give it away)
3. Go tell it on the mountain (179 Mission Praise)
4. You shall go out with joy (796 Mission Praise)

Meditation

In the course of chatting to people in the churches about the teddy service, I have heard lots of amazing stories about peoples' relationship with their bears. Some of the stories are very sweet and touching, but some make your hair stand on end. I have been told by very elderly people about how their mother cut their teddy in half after hearing the children quarrelling over it. One man told me that on his eleventh birthday, he came home to find the charred remains of his teddy on the kitchen fire. 'You are too old for teddies now' he was told. The pain of this kind of intervention lingers on, sometimes for fifty years after the event. Teddies symbolise our tender, childlike self, they stand in for the love of a parent when the parent fails in love or is gone. In a rather horrible way, they also remind us of how easy it is to hurt or damage the young and the vulnerable. Jesus was unusually harsh about people that hurt little ones. 'they may as well have a millstone tied round their necks and cast into the sea'. Joan Crossley

About the service today.

If you are muttering quietly that this Teddy Service today is childish, then hear me out! Today is all about trying to obey two key principles laid down by Jesus: 'whoever welcomes a little child in my name, welcomes me' Matt 18:5 and Matthew 18:3 'I tell you the truth, unless you change and become like little children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.'

To begin with the first teaching of Jesus. It is our pleasure and responsibility as a church to teach the Gospel in a way that children will enjoy and so that all but the tiniest child can understand. We welcome the children and those who care for them in the name of Jesus.

The second teaching of Jesus, that we must *become like* children in order to enter the kingdom is very complex and profound. It suggests that we have things to learn from childhood and from children. All of us who have the pleasure of being around children will have had the experience of seeing something familiar through the fresh gaze of a child or repeating an old truth for a child and gaining from it a new insight. Jesus told us that we must cultivate the humility and honesty of children to have hope of spiritual progress. It has been quite challenging writing a service which is based on the traditional Methodist/Anglican form but is presented for small children. It made me look very hard on what we say and how we say it. I hope that as we say the words together, it may give you grownups a slightly different perspective. Childlike is not the same as childish.

So the aim of today's service is at once simple but hugely important. Through words, music and symbols, we are going to try to make it clear to our small Christians the ways in which God cares for us. How do you explain divine love to a child? Answer, very simply, using familiar symbols and concepts they can relate to.

Why teddies? It doesn't need to be a teddy that a child seizes on as a special love object. Most children have a special blanket, a stuffed toy or something which represents security and parental love to them. We will be explaining that the desire to take care of, to keep close to, and to cherish the special object, all these feelings that the child experience for the first time in what we mean by LOVE. And that when we say that God loves them, it is a deeper, stronger version of the feeling they have. Joan Crossley

Commentary

In the passage from Mark today we read about Simon, this is of course the apostle who would later be named Peter. So we know that Peter was married and that he had to live with his mother-in-law, however we have no evidence that this influenced his decision to leave home and follow Jesus. We know nothing of Peter's wife, we just know that on this occasion the unnamed mother-in-law is ill. Jesus cares about her, heals her, her temperature drops and she serves them. It is stated in a very matter of fact manner that the woman is healed so that she can get back to doing what she does, looking after the men. Of course once one healing has been completed, inevitably the word gets round and we are told that in the evening people came and brought to Jesus all the sick and demon-possessed. Indeed we are told that the whole town gathered at the door, and Jesus healed many who had various diseases. Observance of sabbath law is reflected in the fact that people waited till the evening to bring their sick and deranged to Jesus. The sabbath ended at sunset, so such work was acceptable in the evening.

Inevitably the disciples must have thought with this episode, on the outset of Jesus ministry, that they were on to a good thing. Here was somebody with a real talent and if the healing power of Jesus was exploited in the right way, then there was a way of making a real impression. Imagine sickness being a thing of the past, everybody being made well and the disciples starting off a divine sort of BUPA. But things soon fail to go according to plan. Peter gets up next morning and finds Jesus not at all ready to go and do more healing. Instead Jesus is off by himself and tells them that he must move on to go and preach.

After leaving the town, Jesus went through all of Galilee proclaiming the good news and expelling demons. Recovery from sickness and freedom from demons were visible signs of the inner healing which Jesus proclaimed. Yet he knew that our deepest need is not for health, but for meaning and hope. Healings were not the purpose and Jesus would not spend his time organising things efficiently for maximum healing benefit. We can only imagine how people would have felt when Jesus stopped healing and went off to preach. However I can guess that those people would probably have felt very much like we feel when we seek God's healing upon other people or ourselves and they do not get well and it seems that God's mind must be on other things.

The visual aids of miracles and healings were carried out to make plain the message that that illness is not something which God brings about, it is contrary to his plan for us. They show that there is present in this world another power which is opposed to God. When Jesus heals, he wages war against the forces of evil which bring to us sickness and ultimately death. The healing miracles are never an end in themselves, they are pictures of what God is like, given to us to help us to discover the really important message, that God cares and wants to liberate us from evil in all of its forms.

The ministry of Jesus was one of confrontation. We like to be people of peace and we often think of godly people as people of peace. We do well to be reminded that the ministry of Jesus was not a ministry of peace. He brought peace, but he did so by waging a constant battle against evil. The Epistle to the Ephesians Chapter 6: 12 says 'Be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power, put on the full armour of God, so that you can take your stand against the devils schemes. For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers the authorities, against the powers of this dark world, and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. Therefore put on the armour.'

Christians do not live in peace time, we still live in a world in which there is sickness and evil of many kinds. We must be prepared to be the hands of Christ and through us allow him to reach out and touch those whose lives need healing. It is only the compassion of Christ and the holy power of God which can bring wholeness to our broken world. *Charles Royden*

Meditation

Every time you make a choice, you are turning the central part of you, the part of you that chooses, into something a little different from what it was before. And, taking your life as a whole, with all your innumerable choices, all your life long you are slowly turning this central thing either into a Heaven creature or into a hellish creature -- either into a creature that is in harmony with God, and with other creatures, and with itself, or else into one that is in a state of war and hatred with God, and with its fellow creatures and with itself. To be the one kind of creature is Heaven: that is, it is joy, and peace, and knowledge, and power. To be the other means madness, horror, idiocy, rage, impotence, and eternal loneliness. Each of us at each moment is progressing to the one state or the other. *C. S. Lewis, Mere Christianity*

News, Views and Information

Putnoe Junior Church ' Help' rota is now on the notice board in the welcome area. If you would like to join us one Sunday, please put your name down. We look forward to welcoming you. Liz & Sam.

Flower arranging We have recently lost two of our flower arranging team at St Mark's & urgently need to find new people to take their places. If you'd like to 'have a go', or discuss what is involved please have a word with any of the team members. We will happily have shadowing or arrange practical sessions. Now is not the time to be hiding your lights under bushels! Contact Marion 303254

Unwanted gift sale please if possible bring your priced items to Church on the 5th February. Proceeds to Church funds. Liz/Carolyn

Half Term Storybox & Storybox Plus

Arrangements Storybox for preschoolers will run at Putnoe on Monday 13 February & St. Mark's on Thursday 16 February between 12 & 1. Drinks will be provided but please bring your own packed lunch. Storybox Plus for the 4—10 year age group will run at Putnoe on Monday 13 February & St. Mark's on 16 February between 1.15 & 2.45. for craft, acting, singing & games with a Bible based theme. Light refreshments provided. If you would be interested in lending a hand please see Liz..

Footprints Sunday 12 February at 2pm Massey's Marvellous Mystery Tour. Meet at the junction of Larkway & Brickhill Drive for a 2 1/2 mile walk, finishing at the junction of St. John's Street & Kingsway. Further details Alan & Margaret 327219.

Coffee Morning Saturday 11 February 10—12noon at 14 Flint Way, to raise money to set up a family mat & basket making business in Malawi. A Faith in Action Project. Sylvia Cohen 343424.

Mildmay Fundraising Event at St. Mark's Church on Friday 24 February at 7.30pm. Student Keyboard Ensemble performing music from the 60's. Tickets £3 Available from St. Mark's Office or see Janet Day or Ian Farthing.

St. Mark's Church Preschool are saving Sainsbury's Active Kids 06 vouchers & would like your help. If you have any vouchers please could you bring them to the office. Thank you in advance Helen Harpin Head of Preschool.

In April Tuesday Club are having a talk about East Anglian Air Ambulance Service. This organisation can make use of old or unwanted Mobile phones. If you have any please take them to St. Mark's or Putnoe Heights Church Office.

Joan Mortimer sadly died 16 January. The funeral took place in Lancaster 25 January. Those of you who remember Joan & would like to donate to the Multiple Sclerosis Society in her memory may send them to her daughter Jane Whitlock, 103 Hayclose Crsecent, Kendal, Cumbria LA9 7NT.

Ebay. 'One man's rubbish is another man's treasure' Do you have something to sell in your attic or garage? Let me advertise it for you on Ebay for auction. Anything from a cup and saucer to a motor car. Items can ven be for spares or repair. Ebay auctions are advertised worldwide, all you pay for is a small selling fee and 15% of the sale price towards packing. If you items do not sell, then all you pay is the advertising fee which includes a colour photo. Call Dave or Janet 01234 401184 Mobile 07788 862609

Thank you to everyone who has supported our mission project with Mildmay. We will continue this project until the end of February so there's still time to contribute as an individual or as a group if you haven't done so far. The total we have raised so far is around £2500 which is truly amazing. Lets see what we can do to increase this total and further relieve the lives of adults and children suffering from the effects of HIV AIDS. Sam

Holy Communion will be held at William Harpur House at 10.00am on the first Monday of every month in the Main Lounge. Members of the community are very welcome to attend.



Volunteer decorators

required at Putnoe Heights. We shall be decorating Meeting Room 3 on Monday 20 February hoping to finish on Wednesday 22 February, starting at 8.30 am. Offers of help please to Alan Cooper or Sue Allen.

Preacher Next Week. Our preacher next week will be Mr Paul Fricker. Paul is the head of Religious Studies and Chaplain at Bedford High School.

Church Council This Week

Putnoe Heights Church Council will take place on Monday 6 February at 7.30pm

St Mark's Church Council will take place on Wednesday 8 February at 7.30pm

Everybody is welcome to attend

Arnolds

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I try to give to the poor people for love what the rich could get for money. No, I wouldn't touch a leper for a thousand pounds; yet I willingly cure him for the love of God. -- Mother Teresa, A Gift for God

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.

Betty Sylvia Battle
Irene Dorothy Edwards
Christine Wadner

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

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Rest in Peace

Forthcoming funerals
to be taken by our Ministers

The funeral of Alfred Ernest Buckle will take place at Bedford Crematorium at 10.45am on the 6 February NBC

The Funeral of Mr Rex Woods will take place at Bedford Crematorium on Monday 6 February NBC

The funeral of Mrs Jean Cowell will take place at Bedford Crematorium on Wednesday 8 February at 1.45pm C Royden