



Methodist
Church

Partnership News

5 June 2005
10 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

Held at both churches

9.30am St Mark's Church - Family Worship

Preacher - Revd Neil Bramble-Chapman

Leadership Team - Mr Mike Cooper

Intercessions - Mrs Morag Stewart

11.00am Putnoe Heights - Family Worship

Preacher - Revd Neil Bramble-Chapman

Leadership Team - Mrs Wendy Nash

Intercessions - Ministers

12 June 11 in Ordinary

8.30 Service of Holy Communion

Held at both churches

9.30am St Mark's Church - Family Worship

Preacher - Mr Howard Connell

Leadership Team - Linda Parry

Intercessions - Margaret Appleton

11.00am Putnoe Heights Morning Worship

Preacher - Kate White

Leadership Team - Dave Allen

Intercessions - Sue Allen

Thank You

The flowers at St Mark's this week have been given by Barbara Joy and Elizabeth Bean in memory of Alan and Phil on their respective wedding anniversaries.

The flowers at Putnoe Heights Church this week have been given by Dawn Allinson in memory of her husband, Maurice.

Prayer for Sunday

Almighty God,
you have built your Church
in the foundation of the apostles and prophets,
Jesus Christ himself
being the chief cornerstone.
join us together
in unity of spirit by their teaching,
that we may become a holy temple,
acceptable to you;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen
Methodist Worship.

Contact Details

The Reverend Dr. Sam Cappleman

107 Dover Crescent, Bedford MK41 8QR

266952 Fax- 402624 NSM@ThisisChurch.com

(Sam also works full time as a General Manager for Hewlett Packard)

The Reverend Neil Bramble-Chapman BA, CTM

(Day off Friday)

12 Hartop Close, Putnoe. MK41 8HE

326643 Mobile -07917 356062Minister@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 Samantha Ware 304058

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.

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. Mrs C Cannon 404319

7.30pm Whist Drive - At St Mark's each month the next one 20 June St. Mark's 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 Renu Elston 01908 282866

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. Next meeting May 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 7 June Revd J.Crossley.. Contact Mrs Betty Wyatt 350188.

2.15pm Putnoe Heights Men's Fellowship. Next meeting 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 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 - Next meeting 7 June Outing. No evening meeting. Meets fortnightly. 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

12 - 1pm Total Body Toning at Putnoe Heights Contact Caroline 07778 898135 or 326096

Luncheon Club at Putnoe Height meets fortnightly. Next meeting 8 June 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. A drama group for 4-9year olds. Meets 4-5pm, drinks from 3.30pm

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 & 2 - 5pm Theatre Train at St Mark's -dancing acting, singing,- Kate Randle 01234 782414

2.30pm Calligraphy Group at Putnoe Heights. Meets monthly next meeting 26 March Contact Kathleen Sage 771525

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

Church Calendar

Church Diary Dates

Partnership Council 22nd June
St Mark's Church Council 15 June, 12 October
Circuit/Deanery Meeting 7.30 p.m. 22nd June at Putnoe Heights Church (not Clapham as previously advertised)
Circuit Meeting 14 September
St Mark's Leadership Team -Weds 6th July
Putnoe Heights Leadership Team July 21
St Mark's Church Management Meeting 11 July, 12 September, 2 November. All meetings to start 7.00pm

Putnoe Heights Management

Putnoe Church Council

13 June 2005, 10 Oct 2005

Pastoral Group Meeting - 19 September 2.00pm

Church yard Committee - 13 June -10.00am

Putnoe Heights Mission Group Meeting

Wed 8 June 7.30 p.m. at 14 Flint Way.

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

Brickhill Parish Council dates (Held at St Mark's)

Allotments Committee 27 June 7.30pm

Planning Committee 9 June 7.00pm

Parish Council 9 June 7.45pm

Bible Notes

Ordinary 10 Year A (Green)

Verse of Scripture Psalm 33:4

For the word of the Lord is right and true; he is faithful in all he does. The Lord loves righteousness and justice; the earth is full of his unfailing love.

A Collect Prayer - Before we read we pray

God, faithful and true, you call every generation to make a pilgrim journey. Guide our feet along the road of faith, that we may put our whole trust in you; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

Methodist Worship

First Reading – Hosea 5:15—6:8

Then I will go back to my place until they admit their guilt. And they will seek my face; in their misery they will earnestly seek me."

"Come, let us return to the LORD. He has torn us to pieces but he will heal us; he has injured us but he will bind up our wounds. After two days he will revive us; on the third day he will restore us, that we may live in his presence. Let us acknowledge the LORD; let us press on to acknowledge him. As surely as the sun rises, he will appear; he will come to us like the winter rains, like the spring rains that water the earth." "What can I do with you, Ephraim? What can I do with you, Judah? Your love is like the morning mist, like the early dew that disappears. Therefore I cut you in pieces with my prophets, I killed you with the words of my mouth; my judgments flashed like lightning upon you. For I desire mercy, not sacrifice, and acknowledgment of God rather than burnt offerings. Like Adam, they have broken the covenant-- they were unfaithful to me there. Gilead is a city of wicked men, stained with footprints of blood. (This is the word of the Lord—**Thanks be to God**)

Second Reading - Reading Romans 4:13-25

It was not through law that Abraham and his offspring received the promise that he would be heir of the world, but through the righteousness that comes by faith. For if those who live by law are heirs, faith has no value and the promise is worthless, because law brings wrath. And where there is no law there is no transgression. Therefore, the promise comes by faith, so that it may be by grace and may be guaranteed to all Abraham's offspring--not only to those who are of the law but also to those who are of the faith of Abraham. He is the father of us all. As it is written: "I have made you a father of many nations." He is our father in the sight of God, in whom he believed--the God who gives life to the dead and calls things that are not as though they were. Against all hope, Abraham in hope believed and so became the father of many nations, just as it had been said to him, "So shall your offspring be." Without weakening in his faith, he faced the fact that his body was as good as dead--since he was about a hundred years old--and that Sarah's womb was also dead. Yet he did not waver through unbelief regarding the promise of God, but was strengthened in his faith and gave glory to God, being fully persuaded that God had power to do what he had promised. This is why "it was credited to him as righteousness."

The words "it was credited to him" were written not for him alone, but also for us, to whom God will credit righteousness--for us who believe in him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead. He was delivered over to death for our sins and was raised to life for our justification.

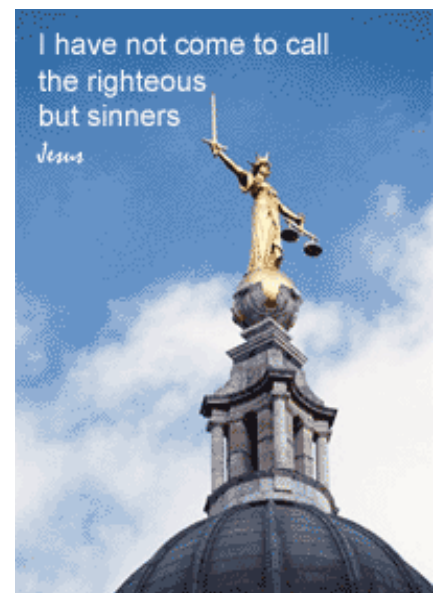
(This is the word of the Lord - **Thanks be to God**)

Gospel Reading Matthew 9:9-13 & 18-26

The Calling of Matthew

As Jesus went on from there, he saw a man named Matthew sitting at the tax collector's booth.

"Follow me," he told him, and Matthew got up and followed him. While Jesus was having dinner at Matthew's house, many tax collectors and "sinners" came and ate with him and his disciples. When the Pharisees saw this, they asked his disciples, "Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and 'sinners'?" On hearing this, Jesus said, "It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. But go



and learn what this means: 'I desire mercy, not sacrifice.' For I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners."

Jesus Questioned About Fasting

Then John's disciples came and asked him, "How is it that we and the Pharisees fast, but your disciples do not fast?" Jesus answered, "How can the guests of the bridegroom mourn while he is with them? The time will come when the bridegroom will be taken from them; then they will fast. "No one sews a patch of unshrunk cloth on an old garment, for the patch will pull away from the garment, making the tear worse. Neither do men pour new wine into old wineskins. If they do, the skins will burst, the wine will run out and the wineskins will be ruined. No, they pour new wine into new wineskins, and both are preserved."

A Dead Girl and a Sick Woman

While he was saying this, a ruler came and knelt before him and said, "My daughter has just died. But come and put your hand on her, and she will live." Jesus got up and went with him, and so did his disciples. Just then a woman who had been subject to bleeding for twelve years came up behind him and touched the edge of his cloak. She said to herself, "If I only touch his cloak, I will be healed." Jesus turned and saw her. "Take heart, daughter," he said, "your faith has healed you." And the woman was healed from that moment. When Jesus entered the ruler's house and saw the flute players and the noisy crowd, he said, "Go away. The girl is not dead but asleep." But they laughed at him. After the crowd had been put outside, he went in and took the girl by the hand, and she got up. News of this spread through all that region.

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

Commentary

When Jesus calls Matthew to follow him, Jesus is ignoring the social norms of his day. The Jewish people despised tax-men. Now none of us much likes a tax-collector, but in Jesus day they worked for the Romans who were the occupying power and thus were doubly hated. This was because the tax-collectors not only exploited their position by taking more money than they should, but they also gave some of their revenue to the Roman authorities. So according to the vast majority of Jewish people, a tax-collector was to be socially shunned, marginalised and hated. But Jesus refuses to be swayed by these accepted attitudes. Jesus goes one step further in breaking these boundaries of accepted decency by having a meal with tax-collectors and an assortment of people categorised as "sinners". These people are not defined in any way, but we are given the distinct impression that the Pharisees at least do not approve of the company that Jesus shares a meal with. Sharing a meal was a customary way of showing hospitality and welcome to your guests. It was not the done thing to show this kind of hospitality to "sinners".

But Jesus is not going to be bound by these accepted values of his time and he steps over these boundaries and by his actions and words, he says that what has gone before is no longer valid, it no longer stands. Jesus declares that the new values of the Kingdom of God, which he is inaugurating, are different from what has gone before. Central to this theme of breaking boundaries is the quotation from Hosea Chapter 6 verse 6, "I require mercy, not sacrifice." Jesus is presenting a perspective on life which has its foundation in the Prophetic tradition of the Old Testament. The Prophets were constantly challenging the values and views of their society. They were constantly proclaiming the word of God to each generation and time and time again, the people did not listen to what was being said to them. Jesus is presented to his audience, as standing as the last in line of these great prophets, proclaiming the true word of God to his generation and beyond to us today. The pattern is the same, Jesus challenges the values and views of first Century Jewish religion and society, but they fail to hear him. Jesus also challenges the values and assumptions of our society today, but do we fail to hear him? In addition, at times it is our duty as Christians, to challenge the values and assumptions of modern society in the name of Christ. Most of the time people will not want to hear what we have to say.

Here the mercy that Jesus requires in the name of God is the kind of mercy which does not exclude others, it does not condemn those who are innocent and it is about putting people and the real situations that they are in above legal a legalistic interpretation of the faith. Jesus had

expressed his acceptance of sinners by eating with them and recommends mercy as a pattern for the living of our lives. Thus we are encouraged to accept those who are sometimes shunned by society and to show mercy to others. This indeed may be a challenge not only to the values and assumptions of society, but may also deeply challenge our own too. *Neil Bramble-Chapman*

Meditation

*For I desire mercy, not sacrifice, and acknowledgment of God rather than burnt offerings
Hosea 6:6.*

Jesus quotes these words from Hosea in the passage from Matthew today. He did so in response to criticism concerning the company which he kept. The book of Hosea tells of how the prophet Hosea became a living lesson on what the mercy of God was like. Hosea married a prostitute named Gomer and despite her unfaithfulness, bearing children from other men, nevertheless Hosea never failed to show love and devotion and took back his wayward wife. The message was that this was how God behaved towards Israel. Israel behaved badly towards God, nevertheless he never stopped loving them. In Hebrew the word *Hesed*, or *Chesed* is used, it can be translated as “mercy,” “covenant faithfulness,” “kindness,” “loving kindness,” “steadfast love”—it’s all the same word. God was always utterly faithful, when the people of Israel were faithless. God would be hurt by Israel’s lack of fidelity but he could behave no differently because it is his nature to show mercy. *Charles Royden*

Hymns

1. Praise my soul the King of heaven
2. Shine Jesus Shine
3. Wide, wide as the ocean - children to sing this and congregation join in at Putnoe
4. Amazing Grace
5. Great is thy faithfulness

Prayers for Sunday and the Week Ahead

Lord, you have taught us that all our doings without love are nothing worth: send your Holy Spirit and pour into our hearts that most excellent gift of love, the true bond of peace and of all virtues, without which whoever lives is counted dead before you. Grant this for your only Son Jesus Christ’s sake.

We thank you O God, for the saints of all ages. For those who in times of darkness kept the lamp of faith burning. For the great souls who saw visions of larger truth and dared to declare it. For the multitude of quiet and gracious souls whose presence has purified and sanctified the world. And for those known and loved by us, who have passed from this earthly fellowship into the fuller light of life with you. Amen.

Jesus said, ‘whoever loses his life for my sake will find it’ Matt 10:39. Tertullian the second century church father wrote ‘The blood of the martyrs is the seed of the church.’ The following prayers of martyrs challenge and encourage us today.

Lord God Almighty, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. You gave strength to your prophets and your holy apostles. You gave strength to your holy martyrs. May you also give strength to us and protect us from harm. Take our souls to yourself with our faces unashamed. To you be glory, and to your beloved and holy Son Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit, forever and ever. Amen. *Paese The Copt*

Lord we beseech you to help and defend us. Deliver the oppressed, pity the poor, uplift those who have fallen, be the portion of those in need, return to your care those who have gone astray, feed the hungry, strengthen the weak, and break the chains of the prisoners. May all people come to know that you only are God, that Jesus Christ is your child and that we are your people and the sheep of your pasture. *Clement of Rome*

May God the Father and the everliving high priest Jesus Christ, strengthen us in faith, truth and love; and give to us our portion among the saints with all those who trust in our Lord Jesus Christ. We pray for all saints, for kings and governors, for the enemies of the cross of Christ and for ourselves. We pray that our fruit may abound and that we might be made complete in Jesus Christ our Lord. *Polycarp of Smyrna*

News, Views and Information

Farewell A celebration of the ordained ministry and circuit farewell service for the Revd. Karen Murphy will be held at Oakley Methodist Church on Sunday 26 June at 6pm. Every one is most welcome. To acknowledge Karens 10 years of ministry in the circuit & as a token of our affection a presentation will be made during the service. A collection plate will be available today & next Sunday 12 June, in the vestibule at St. Marks & Putnoe Heights, for donations towards a gift for Karen.

Putnoe Heights Junior Church and Storybox Plus Summer Outing. We hope to go to Thurleigh Farm Centre, leaving from Putnoe Heights Church at 12 noon, on either 3 or 10 July, taking a picnic for "Wacky Woods". Kids £3.75 Adults £3.25 Family £13.50 (2 adults and 2 kids). Please let Liz Spavins know a.s.a.p. which date you would prefer or for more details call Liz on 302349.

Putnoe Heights Junior church The "help" rota is now on the notice board. Please sign up if you would like to join us one Sunday. Our 10+ group will be in the small hall led by Joan, Neil and other "Guest Leaders" and the younger ones will be in the large hall with Liz Spavins, John Barrow and Holly Webber.

Notelets depicting an original painting of St Mark's Church, by Peter Coppenhall, are on sale at 25p each from the book stall.

Footprints. Weekend in Colchester 16—18 September 2005. There are still two twin rooms available, non-walkers welcome to join us in this pleasant area of 'Constable Country.' Further details from Sue Allen 407264

Network Spring District Day Monday 6 June at Chesham Methodist Church. The theme "Building Bridges" will be led by Connexional President, Elaine Turner. A coach leaves from Priory Methodist Church at 8.30am, the cost is £10. To book a place please contact Elaine MacKirdy tel: 360271 as soon as possible and no later than 27 May.

Storybox at St Mark's are in need of help on Thursday lunchtimes at 12.00. Please ring Joan if you can spare some time once a month

Flower Rota: Anyone wishing to donate the flowers at Putnoe Heights Church on any Sunday from June to December is invited to enter their name on the rota on the notice board in the welcome area.

Auction of Promises September 17 at St Mark's Church, in aid of the Building Development to replace the Portakabin and provide accommodation for

Autism Bedfordshire. We would be grateful for any donations of promises which could be auctioned at this fundraising event. Please contact Chris Izzard who is organising this event. Telephone 212164.

Bible Readings Changes have been made to the readings on The Methodist Plan and hence our rotas for this week and the whole of June. The new readings will be as follows. If you are down to read please do check your readings.

June 12 Ex 19:2-8a, Rom 5:1-8, Matt 9:35-10:8

June 19 Jer 20:7-13, Rom 6:1b-11, Matt 10:24-39

June 26 Gen 22:1-14, Rom 6:12-23, Matt 10:40-42

Car Boot Sale Thanks to everybody who helped last week. £1,250 was raised which is absolutely brilliant. We are especially grateful to the team who give up their Bank Holidays to help the church in this way.

Tuesday Afternoon Housegroup meeting for this coming week has been cancelled. Next meeting will be 21 June. *Mary Stubbs*

The proceeds from the Crib Service and Christmas Day Service held at Putnoe Heights have been sent to Childline and Keech Hospice. Both organisations have asked that grateful thanks be passed to the congregation. *Kathryn Morse*

Footprints – Dunstable Downs Walk, Sunday 12th June. Meet at 2.30 pm at Dunstable Downs Visitors' Centre on the B4541 near Robertson's Corner, south-west of Dunstable (grid ref SP 008198). The walk is 4½ miles in length and involves some gentle hill-climbing. Unless there is a huge amount of rain beforehand, there is little mud. Bare legs are NOT recommended, as parts of the path are overgrown. The route is a varied one including the fascinating Whipsnade Tree Cathedral, woodland, open country and lanes and the last mile is along the grass-covered crest of the chalky Downs, commanding stunning view across the Vale of Aylesbury and beyond, as well as the gliders of the London Gliding Club taking off, circling and landing. Alison and Warwick Holden, tel 403551; mobile 07710 520674.

Footprints Summer Party – You are warmly invited to join us at the Summer Party on the following Saturday, 18th June from 7.00 pm at the home of Bob and Pam Burn, 62 Church Lane. You are requested to bring a contribution to the feast but, in the interests of a balanced menu, please contact Sue Allen on 407264 before deciding what to bring!

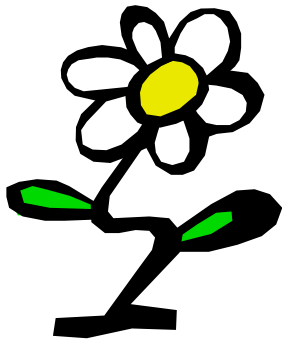
Putnoe Saturday Morning cleaning - We are desperately short of volunteers for this rota at present. If you can help please see Peter or Joy or ring 261736.

My Favourite hymn is ---- Do you have a favourite hymn? If so we would like to hear about it. We would like to try to include as many as possible in our services over the coming months. Whilst we cannot promise to accommodate all requests we will try where possible. Please complete a form available in the foyer and hand to Ian Farthing St Marks Leadership Team

Membership Forms. Thank you to everybody who has completed a membership form at St Mark's. We would like everybody to do this just so that we make sure our records are accurate

Bedfordshire Police.

The police office is now open and surgeries take place every Tuesday afternoon 2—5pm and Thursday evening 4.30– 7.30pm at St Mark's Church Community Centre. Members of the public and invited to attend and the police would be pleased to receive information from the public. Information can also be given to the Church Office.



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).

Anglican Methodist Relations

Two years ago, the Church of England's General Synod agreed by 91 per cent, and the Methodist Conference by 76 per cent, to approve the Covenant. The two churches also set up the Joint Implementation Commission which has now proposed radical changes.

Bishops It states that if Methodists accept the idea of bishops, then they should be consecrated by Church of England bishops.

At Holy Communion, individual cups used by Methodists for communion should be replaced by a single chalice, and Church of England wafers should be replaced by a single loaf. This might be the wrong way round! Methodists could still use wine from which the alcohol had been removed, but left over elements should be consumed after the service, following Anglican tradition.

On the issue of lay presidency, which happens in the Methodist Church, it argues that the Church of England has already accepted that such celebrations are valid by stating in the Anglican-Methodist Covenant that the sacraments in the Methodist Church are "duly administered and celebrated." Did somebody miss that I wonder?

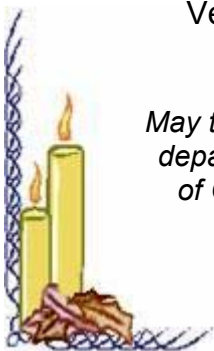
The Churches had asked the JIC to consider, as a priority, whether clergy from each Church could fully take the place of their counterparts in the other Church. The report recognises that unrestricted interchangeability of ministers is the litmus test of whether ordinations performed by their Church are fully accepted by a partner Church. .

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.

Roy Harding
Dennis Josephus Satchwill
Veronica Hawkins

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



Forthcoming Funerals

to be conducted by our ministers

The funeral of Mrs Edith Roddie will take place on the 7th June at Bedford Crematorium
Neil Bramble Chapman

The funeral of Infant Jacob Howe will take place on the 8th June at Bedford Crematorium
Neil Bramble Chapman

The funeral of John Sidney William Crowther will take place on the 20th June at Bedford Crematorium
Neil Bramble Chapman

The funeral of John William Ames will take place at Bedford Crematorium on Friday 10th June at 10.45am *Charles Royden*

The funeral of Alan Turner will take place at Bedford Crematorium on Monday 13 June at 2.30pm *Charles Royden*