



Methodist
Church

Partnership News

5 March 2006

First Sunday of Lent

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



Church of
England

Church Services Today

8.30 Holy Communion both churches
9.30am St Mark's Church - Family Worship
Preacher - Revd Neil Bramble-Chapman
Leadership Team - Mrs Avril Williams
Intercessions - Mrs Delia Shephard
11.00am Putnoe Heights - Family Worship
Preacher - Revd Neil Bramble-Chapman
Leadership Team - Mrs Wendy Nash
Intercessions - Mrs Sue Allen

12 March 2006

8.30 Service of Holy Communion both churches
9.30am St Mark's Church - Morning Worship
Preacher - The Right Rev. Richard Inwood
Leadership - Mr Mike Cooper
Intercessions -
11.00am Putnoe Heights - Morning Worship
Preacher - The Right Rev. Richard Inwood
Leadership Team - Alan Cooper
Intercessions - Mr Edward Peck

Reading 1 : Genesis 17: 1-7,15-16
Reading 2 : Romans 4: 13-25
Reading 3 : Mark 8 : 31-38

Thank You

The flowers at St. Marks this week are given by Vera Tippett giving thanks for her loving family and friends.

The flowers at Putnoe Heights Church this week have been given by Gwen & Peter Beswick to celebrate their wedding anniversary.

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

Prayer for Sunday

Lord take our minds and think through them
Take our lips and speak through them
Take our hearts and set them on fire
With the desire to do your holy will
In the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Contact Details

The Reverend Dr. Sam Cappleman
107 Dover Crescent, Bedford MK41 8QR
266952 Fax- 402624 NSM@ThisisChurch.com
(Sam also works full time as a General Manager for Hewlett Packard)

The Reverend Neil Bramble-Chapman BA, CTM
(Day off Friday)
12 Hartop Close, Putnoe. MK41 8HE
326643 Mobile -07917 356062 Minister@ThisisChurch.com

The Reverend Dr. Joan Crossley (Day off Friday)
30 Cutcliffe Grove, Bedford. MK40 4DD.
Home 344536 Crossley@Thisischurch.com

The Reverend Charles Royden (Day off Thursday)
The Vicarage, Calder Rise. MK41 7UY
309175 Mobile 07973 113861 Vicar@ThisisChurch.com

Partnership Youth and Children's Worker
Mrs Liz Spavins 302349 youth@thisischurch.com

For Data Protection Purposes

Please note that any items submitted for inclusion in Partnership News will automatically be posted on our website.

Partnership Pastoral Support Team Co-Ordinator & Churchyards Administrator

Mrs Mary Stubbs 406784 Mary@Thisischurch.com
Please inform us if you know of anyone who is ill, bereaved, housebound, requires a visit, home communion or counselling services. Please also ask us if you would like a home visit for any reason.

Putnoe Heights Church Centre

Open 9am - 12 noon Monday & Friday
9am - 5pm Tuesday/Wednesday & Thursday
Tel/fax & Answering Service 365630 putnoe@thisischurch.com
Centre Manager Mr Barry Snelson 365630
Leadership Team - Mrs Sue Allen 407264
Treasurer Mrs Kathryn Morse 216428
Treasurerph@Thisischurch.com
Gift Aid Administrator - Mr John Hitt 404186
Junior Church Co-ordinator - Mrs Liz Spavins 302349

St. Mark's Church Centre (Open 9am - 5.00pm)

Tel/fax & Answering Service 342613 office@thisischurch.com
Centre Manager Miss Wendy Rider 342613
Leadership Team - Mr Ian Farthing 210892
Treasurer - Mr John Day 295592 treasurer@Thisischurch.com
Gift Aid Administrator Mr Jim Williams 360605

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

Regular Weekly Activities - A Guide To Our Churches

Monday

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

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

(See website for more details)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

6.15 pm Brownies Putnoe. Penny Fulham 406045

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

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

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

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

7.30pm Whist Drive - At St Mark's each month the next 20 March 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 March Revd. N. Bramble Chapman Betty Wyatt 350188.

2.15pm Putnoe Heights Men's Fellowship. Next

meeting next meeting 7 March with Women's Fellowship. Lawrence Wyatt 350188.

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

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

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

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

6.45pm Guides at Putnoe Heights. Emma Holloway 293792

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

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

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

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

7.45 pm Putnoe Heights Ladies Tuesday Club - Meets fortnightly.at 7.45pm Next meeting 7 March Slides of Canada . Madge Walsh 359088

Wednesday

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

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

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

10.00 am Holy Communion at St. Mark's Chapel. A half hour service followed by coffee. All welcome.

10am Sewing & Chat Putnoe Heights Contact Valerie Russell 01462 815966

10.30am U3A Art Appreciation meets fortnightly at Putnoe Heights – first meeting April 12th. Contact Audrey Hancock 365915

Luncheon Club at Putnoe Heights fortnightly. Next meeting 8 March 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 . 15 March Sylvia Woods 365095

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

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

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

Thursday

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

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

9.45am Yoga at Putnoe Heights. Karen Simpson 244970

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

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

1.30-3pm Toddler Playtime at Putnoe 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

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.

Maths Tuition at Putnoe Heights 6pm. Contact Ron Hodgson 771740

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

6.15pm Brownies at Putnoe Heights. Helga Nash 218521

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

7pm Street Dance. 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 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 1st Thursday each month. Mr John Broadhouse 740271

Friday

9.30am U3A Exercise at Putnoe Heights. Carole Maunder 301325

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

1.30 - 2pm Stars School of Dance at Putnoe Heights. Contact Esther Sancto 272517 or 07917 58246

2pm U3A Gardening Group at Putnoe Heights. Contact Eve Whitehead 356875

6.00pm Maths Tuition. Contact Ron Hodgson 771740

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

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

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

5pm -7pm Bethesda Church at Putnoe Heights. Contact Pastor Denis Baka 07944 749357

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

Forthcoming Events at Putnoe Heights

Friday 10 March

2pm Tea Dance at Putnoe Heights. Contact Monica Whittamore 853496

8pm Concert by Bedford Town Band. Contact Roger Nicholls 357268

Saturday 11 March

Shannon Express, the internationally renowned Potton BarberShop Harmony Club, will perform at Putnoe Heights Church on Saturday March 11th at 7.30pm in aid of the Multiple Sclerosis Therapy Centre in Barker's Lane. Tickets at £8 from the MS Centre (325781), from 5 The Furlong, at the door, or contact Alan Davidson 348362

Bible Notes First Sunday of Lent Year B

Verse of Scripture Psalm 25:4

Show me your ways, O LORD, teach me your paths; guide me in your truth and teach me, for you are God my Saviour, and my hope is in you all day long.



A Collect Prayer - Before we read we pray

Almighty God, whose Son Jesus Christ fasted forty days in the wilderness, and was tempted as we are, yet without sin: give us grace to discipline ourselves in obedience to your Spirit; and, as you know our weakness, so may we know your power to save; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen *Common Worship*

Heavenly father, your Son battled with the powers of darkness, and grew closer to you in the desert: help us to use these days to grow in wisdom and prayer that we may witness to your saving love in Jesus Christ our Lord. *Common Worship Shorter Collects*

First Reading - Genesis 9: 8-17

Then God said to Noah and to his sons with him: "I now establish my covenant with you and with your descendants after you and with every living creature that was with you--the birds, the livestock and all the wild animals, all those that came out of the ark with you--every living creature on earth. I establish my covenant with you: Never again will all life be cut off by the waters of a flood; never again will there be a flood to destroy the earth." And God said, "This is the sign of the covenant I am making between me and you and every living creature with you, a covenant for all generations to come: I have set my rainbow in the clouds, and it will be the sign of the covenant between me and the earth. Whenever I bring clouds over the earth and the rainbow appears in the clouds, I will remember my covenant between me and you and all living creatures of every kind. Never again will the waters become a flood to destroy all life. Whenever the rainbow appears in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and all living creatures of every kind on the earth." So God said to Noah, "This is the sign of the covenant I have established between me and all life on the earth."

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

Second Reading - 1 Peter 3: 18-22

For Christ died for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God. He was put to death in the body but made alive by the Spirit, through whom also he went and preached to the spirits in prison who disobeyed long ago when God waited patiently in the days of Noah while the ark was being built. In it only a few people, eight in all, were saved through water, and this water symbolizes baptism that now saves you also--not the removal of dirt from the body but the pledge of a good conscience toward God. It saves you by the resurrection of Jesus Christ, who has gone into heaven and is at God's right hand--with angels, authorities and powers in submission to him.

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

Third Reading - Mark 1: 9-15

At that time Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. As Jesus was coming up out of the water, he saw heaven being torn open and the Spirit descending on him like a dove. And a voice came from heaven: "You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased." At once the Spirit sent him out into the desert, and he was in the desert forty days, being tempted by Satan. He was with the wild animals, and angels attended him. After John was put in prison, Jesus went into Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God. "The time has come," he said. "The kingdom of God is near. Repent and believe the good news!"

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

Post Communion Prayer

Lord God, you have renewed us with the living bread from heaven; by it you nourish our faith, increase our hope, and strengthen our love: teach us always to hunger for him who is the true and living bread, and enable us to live by every word that proceeds from out of your mouth; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

Commentary Commentary on Mark 1:9-13

The Baptism of Jesus is significant as it marks Jesus out as God's anointed and chosen one. It tells us that Jesus is the Messiah. From now on there can be no doubt. It is a dramatic event as Jesus, we are told, sees heaven torn open and the Spirit descends on him as a dove. This is heavily laden with symbolism, with Heaven broken open, which indicates that here in the person of Jesus there is a new way to the presence of God. It was believed at the time that God in some way resided in Heaven, which is a place above where we exist, so with heaven now opened, we have access to a place which had only been restricted before.

A dove is also witnessed and this symbolises the blessing of God resting upon Jesus. It might seem like a strange way to talk about blessing and the Holy Spirit, but then how do you describe such a nebulous concept as the Spirit of God. To put it into a physical form makes it all the more real and tangible. The Holy Spirit is not just something out there and mysterious, but it is seen resting on Jesus, filling him and transforming his life.

Then there is the Voice of God speaking to Jesus and others who witnessed his Baptism. Are the words meant for Jesus or for the crowd or for us? Jesus hears the confirmation that he is the Son of God, that he is chosen, that he is called by God. Those around Jesus witness this too, that in their midst is the Son of God. Make no mistake, the Messiah is here, is the message. And so do we through the Gospel, hear the affirmation that here is the chosen one of God, that Jesus is the Messiah, he is our Messiah, he is your Messiah and mine too.

In Mark's account Jesus is then sent into the desert to be tempted, by the Devil, for forty days. A time of testing, a time of trial, a time of reflecting, a time of wrestling with doubt, fear and anxiety. It is a time which prepares Jesus for his Ministry. We are now in the season of Lent, which is forty days, a distant echo of the testing Jesus experienced in the wilderness. To share in that experience of deprivation, we often choose to give up something in Lent. But what does this sacrifice mean to us if we can replace it with another thing to compensate our deprivation? How seriously do we take Lent, do we adequately use the time to reflect upon our lives and the journey we take with God? Do we look into the inner recesses of our personality and really get to grips with who we are? Self-knowledge is a wonderful mystery! You might very well say, "I know who I am and I don't need to spend 40 days looking at myself. I'm OK thank you." But do we really know what it is that motivates us? Do we really know why we feel jealous, angry, sad, depressed, joyful? Lent can be a time of assessment, reassessment, moving on, discerning what we feel called to do, what God is asking of us and what it is that we need to do with our lives as a consequence.

I hope and pray that each of us may use the season of Lent over the next 5 weeks, to move into a deeper understanding of who we are and into a deeper relationship with God. *Neil Bramble-Chapman*

Hymns (Please distribute Morning Worship and Mission Praise)

1. As the deer pants for the water 37
2. I am a new creation 254
3. Lord make me a mountain 436
4. Lord of creation 440
5. O Jesus I have promised 501

Meditation

Forty days lie before each one of us
Forty days in which to make a difference
Forty days in which to seek and learn to live in the knowledge of your presence
Forty days in which to become more aware God with us.

Lent is used in the church as a 40 day time of prayer and repentance in preparation for Easter. It is a good time for us to have some religious reflection and contemplation.

Why 40 Days? In counting the 40 days of Lent the western church excludes Sundays (which is celebrated as the day of Christ's resurrection) whereas the eastern church includes them. 40 is a significant number in Jewish-Christian scripture:

In Genesis, the flood which destroyed the earth was brought about by 40 days and nights of rain. The Hebrews spent 40 years in the wilderness before reaching the land promised to them by God. Moses fasted for 40 days before receiving the ten commandments on Mount Sinai.

Jesus spent 40 days fasting in the wilderness in preparation for his ministry.

Most Christians regard Jesus' time in the wilderness as the key event for the duration of Lent.

Why is it called Lent? Lent is an old English word meaning to lengthen. Lent is observed in spring, when the days begin to get longer.

The colour purple Purple is the symbolic colour used in some churches throughout Lent, for drapes and altar frontals. Purple is used for two reasons: firstly because it is associated with mourning and so anticipates the pain and suffering of the crucifixion, and secondly because purple is the colour associated with royalty, and celebrates Christ's resurrection and sovereignty.

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ:

the early Christians observed with great devotion the days of our Lord's passion and resurrection, and it became the custom of the Church that before the Easter celebration there should be a forty-day season of spiritual preparation.

During this season converts to the faith were prepared for Holy Baptism.

It was also a time when persons who had committed serious sins and had separated themselves from the community of faith were reconciled by penitence and forgiveness, and restored to participation in the life of the Church.

In this way the whole congregation was reminded of the mercy and forgiveness proclaimed in the gospel of Jesus Christ and the need we all have to renew our faith.

I invite you, therefore, in the name of the Church, to observe a holy Lent:

by self-examination and repentance;

by prayer, fasting, and self-denial;

and by reading and meditating on God's Holy Word.

Prayers for Sunday and the week ahead.

Loving Father, today is the first Sunday of Lent.

Over the next six weeks, with your help, we are going to prepare for Easter.

From today we are making a new start with a bigger effort to be more loving and kind.

Help us to show concern for the less fortunate, the hungry and the poor, and especially help us to speak to you more often.

We ask this through your Son, Jesus, whose death and resurrection we will be thinking about in the next few weeks. Amen. *Tony Castle.*

Grant, we beseech thee, O Lord, that by the observance of this Lent we may advance in the knowledge of the mystery of Christ, and show forth his mind in conduct worthy of our calling; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Gelasian Sacramentary*

Come, our Light, and illumine our darkness.

Come, our Life, and raise us from death.

Come, our Physician, and heal our wounds.

Come, Flame of Divine Love, and burn up our sins.

Come, our King, sit upon the throne of our hearts and reign there.

For you alone are my King and my Lord. *Dimitrii of Rostov*

News, Views and Information

Bedford Festival of Music, Speech & Drama at Bedford Corn Exchange (Howard Room) on Sunday 5 March at 6pm, Helen Morse, James Beswick, Lucy Charman & Chloe Coppenhall will represent the Church & Rachel Nash will represent Dame Alice in the Bible Reading class of this County Festival. Please come & support our young people. I can provide some lifts. Liz

Bedford River Festival 15 July. The theme is water. Can we do it ????. We are proposing as community project for Putnoe to take part in the carnival procession. If you or your family would like to be involved, there will be a short meeting Sunday 5 March following morning service at Putnoe. If you are unable to attend the meeting but would still like to be involved please contact Liz.

Storybox at both churches. If you would like to join either of our story telling teams after Easter please speak to Liz. You would be asked to tell a short, simple Bible based story to under 5's approx. once every 2/3 months.

Footprints -Sunday 12th March 2.30pm. Meet at the Mowsbury Golf Club car park for a 4 mile circular walk in the Ravensden area. (The planned walk from Houghton Conquest has been postponed due to knee-deep mud on most of the route!) John and Sally Gunning (305925)

Confirmation/Membership On Sunday 12th March Bishop Richard will be officiating with Neil at a combined service at Putnoe at 11am. He will preach at St Mark's at the 9.30 service

Chapel at St Mark's. It has been suggested that it would be good to replace the existing chairs in the chapel with new wooden chairs, similar to the wooden chairs used in the church at Putnoe. The chairs may be donated and inscribed in memory. If you think that this is something which you would like then please speak with one of the Ministers or any member of the Leadership Team.

Coffee Morning in aid of a blood pressure monitor for the patients of the Putnoe Surgery, Queens Drive. Friday 17 March 10am - 12noon at Putnoe Surgery.

Tea Dance at Putnoe Heights on Friday 10 March 2pm Contact Monica Whittamore 853496

Concert by Bedford Town Band on Friday 10 March at 8pm Contact Roger Nicholls 357268

Shannon Express at Putnoe Heights Church on Saturday 11 March. The internationally renowned Potton BarberShop Harmony Club, will perform in aid

of the Multiple Sclerosis Therapy Centre in Barker's Lane. Tickets at £8 from the MS Centre (325781), from 5 The Furlong, at the door, or contact Alan Davidson 348362

Consultation. The Leadership Teams of Putnoe Heights and St Mark's are currently having a series of meetings with those concerned in seeking the way forward for our Ministerial Team when Neil leaves this summer. If you would like to share any of your own thoughts please speak to any member of the Leadership Team

"God's Story in Action" Bishop Richard and a team from the Diocese have put together a 6 week course including a DVD and course booklet. If you would like to order a copy for your group the cost will be £20. Please see Milly.

Fresh Expressions the DVD for your homegroup. Stories of church for a changing culture. Running Time: 75 mins. Presented by well-known Songs of Praise host Diane-Louise Jordan and produced by the Fresh Expressions team, this DVD contains 14 engaging and informative stories of emerging forms of church around the country. An excellent training tool for those interested in setting up or understanding more about Fresh Expressions. ! View a trailer for the DVD by visiting the fresh expressions website www.freshexpressions.org.uk

Diary Dates

St Mark's Church Council 14 June, 11 Oct

Circuit Meeting 16 Mar 2006

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

Putnoe Heights Leadership Team -

2 Sunningdale Walk

St Mark's Church Management Meeting

All meetings to start 7.00pm

Putnoe Heights Management - 15 May, 17 July 2006

Putnoe Church Council 12 June, 9 Oct

Pastoral Group Meeting –

Churchyard Committee -

Putnoe Heights Mission Group Meeting-

Partnership Council - 19 Sept

Brickhill Parish Council - 23 Mar, 27 Apr,

Joint Deanery Circuit

Annual Congregational Meeting 7 May 2006

Putnoe Heights Children & Youth - 26 Apr, 28 June

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

To Celebrate Peter's 70th birthday, Gwen & Peter invite friends from both churches to 'Open House' at 6 Repton Close for a chat, tea, coffee etc. from 10.30-12.30 or 2- 4pm on Monday 6 March. Please no presents, but a box will be available for voluntary donations towards the continuing specialised work at St. John's Hospice.

Confirmation/Admission to Membership We are looking forward to welcoming Bishop Richard to confirm a group of candidates at Putnoe at 11am on 12 March. Neil will represent the Methodist connection as candidates will be admitted to adult membership at the same time.

Fancy a spring break in sunny Suffolk?

Comfortable Victorian cottage in Woodbridge near the historic town centre and the beautiful river. Plenty of places to walk and visit nearby, or just relax. Sleeps five - one pet allowed downstairs - vacancies for long weekends, monday to friday or friday to friday. Discount on Country Holiday prices. Take advantage of this beautiful part of the country. See Carolyn or Neil or e mail hillhousecottage@hotmail.co.uk.



Mildmay Mission – A BIG thank-you

On behalf of Mildmay I'd like to thank everyone who gave so generously to the Mildmay appeal which we are now closing. There has been a magnificent response from individuals and groups who have

contributed and to become involved with this project. Together, through smartie tubes, personal giving, church and group donations, lunches, pizza evenings, musical events, the sale of various goods across the partnership, and many other events we

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.

**Mario Florio
Joyce Barter**

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



have been able to raise the incredible total of just over £3800, exceeding the ambitious target we set for ourselves back in December. This money will be used by Mildmay to pay for fuel to bring sick children to the Mildmay Centre in Uganda and for treatment and counselling for people suffering from HIV/AIDS related illnesses both in the UK and in Africa.

When we started the appeal we reflected that, in many ways, the topic of HIV/AIDS can be difficult or controversial, sometimes because of the preconceived ideas of how the disease is contracted and spread. Whatever we believe, through this project we have been able to support tangibly the work of a Christian organisation which is dedicated to sharing God's love and improving the lives of those who suffer from HIV/AIDS. If you still want to make a donation it's not too late but please give any contributions to one of the Ministers or the church offices as soon as possible. Through your efforts and generosity of spirit we have been able to make a difference to people who are often ignored or marginalised in our society, and that has to be even more important than reaching any target. Thank You Sam Cappleman

Our special thanks to Sam for organising this fundraising which has achieved such a spectacular result

Holy Communion will take place at 10.00am on Monday 6 March at Sir William Harpur House in Avon Drive, in the main lounge. All welcome.

Rest in Peace

The funeral of Herbert Nicholls will take place on Monday 6th March at 11.30am at Bedford Crematorium Crossley

The funeral of Gail Roberta Tuffnail will take place on Friday 10 March at 2.30pm Royden

The funeral of May France will take place at Putnoe Heights Church on Tuesday 7 March at 2.00pm Royden

The funeral of Philip Franklin will take place at Bedford Crematorium on Friday 10 March at 10.00am Royden

The funeral of Joan Frances Clothier will take place at Bedford Crematorium on Friday 10 March at 10.45am Royden

The funeral of Trevor Jones will take place at Bedford Crematorium at 1.45pm on

