



Methodist
Church

Partnership News

6 February 2005

Sunday next 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 Sunday next before Lent

8.30am Services of Holy Communion

held at both churches

9.30am St Mark's Church - Family Worship

Preacher - Revd Dr Joan Crossley

Leadership Team - Mrs Iris Perry

Intercessions - Mr Ian Farthing

11.00am Putnoe Heights—Family Worship

Preacher - Revd Dr Joan Crossley

Leadership Team- Mr Peter Parker

Intercessions – – Ministers

Junior Church at Putnoe Heights are raising money for the Tsunami Disaster by doing a sponsored sing during coffee time today. Cakes will be on sale. .

13th February –1st Sunday in Lent

8.30 Service of Holy Communion

Held at both churches

9.30am St Mark's Church—Morning Worship

Preacher –Miss Kate White

Leadership Team - Mr Ian Farthing

Intercessions - Mr John Stubbs

11.00am Putnoe Heights—Morning Worship

Preacher - Miss Kate White

Leadership Team – Mrs Sue Allen

Intercessions –Mrs Claire Peck

Thank You

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

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

The flowers in the Chapel have been given by Iris Swallow in remembrance of Les.

The flowers in the Church last week were given by Barbara Pinney in memory of her husband Keith.

Prayer for Sunday

O most gracious Redeemer and King, come and dwell within us and reign where you have the right to reign. By your Holy Spirit take possession of our souls and lead us in the ways of righteousness and peace; through 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 -07740 865167 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

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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 www.ThisisChurch.com

Centre Manager Mr Barry Snelson 365630

Leadership Team - Mrs Elizabeth Wyatt 350188

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 www.ThisisChurch.com

Centre Manager Miss Wendy Rider 342613

Wendy@thisischurch.com

Leadership Team - Mrs Janet Day—295592

Treasurer - Mr John Day 295592 treasurer@Thisischurch.com

Gift Aid Administrator Mr Jim Williams 360605

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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).
- 10.00 am Day Care Centre** at St. Mark's Church for those with Learning Difficulties. Contact K Stenton 07748 760082
- 12.00pm - 1.00pm Storybox** at Putnoe Heights Church. Service for parents/carers & children under 5. Children's activities songs and prayers, all in one hour from 12-1pm!
- 4.15 - 5.45pm Kumon Maths** at Putnoe Heights. Contact Ms R.Mistry 01908 217555
- 6.00pm Brownies** St Mark's. Mrs C Mathew 400987
- 6.15 pm Brownies** Putnoe. Alison McEwen 358583
- 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
- 7.30- 9.30pm Creative Needles** at Putnoe Heights. Mrs Hayward 307648
- 7.30pm Whist Drive** - At St Mark's each month. Next 21 February St. Mark's Contact Mrs. Judith Stanton. 823313
- 7.30pm Housegroup** 30 The Ridgeway. The home of Eddy & Margaret Peck 267567.
- 8.00 - 9.00 pm 'Get Fit, Stay Fit'** at Putnoe Heights. Mrs Diane Field 404976

Tuesday

- 9.30am - 12.30pm Candlewicking** (Needlework) at Putnoe Heights - Mrs Olive Shotbolt 267203
- 9.30am - 11.30pm Jo Jingles** at St. Mark's. Music & movement for pre-school children. Contact Renu Elston 01908 282866
- 10.00am - 11.00am - Keep Fit** at Putnoe Heights. Contact Mrs Stileman 822230
- 1.30 -3.00pm Putnoe Heights Church Toddlers Playtime** 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.
- 2.15pm Putnoe Heights Women's Fellowship** - Next meeting 8 February –Childhood Pastimes Contact Mrs Betty Wyatt 350188
- 2.15pm Putnoe Heights Men's Fellowship.** Next meeting 15 February 2005 –Mr R Woodford 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 Church. Contact Mary Stubbs 406784.
- 3.30 - 4.30pm Putnoe Heights Church** Essential Stretch Contact Caroline 07778 898135 or 326096

- 6.30 - 7.30pm Yoga** at Putnoe Heights. Contact Rachel Leontyne 01234 783129
- 6.45pm Guides** at Putnoe Heights - Liz Rix 363607
- 7.00 - 8.00 pm Keep Fit at St. Mark's Church.** Contact Mrs Jan Gregory 214107.
- 7.00 - 10pm Cardmakers Club** at St Mark's Contact Carol Houghton 346718
- 7.30- 9.00pm Bibleway Church** at Putnoe Heights - Bible study & prayers. Contact Revd.Tarr 309881 or 07891095746
- 7. 45 pm Putnoe Heights Ladies Tuesday Club** - Next meeting – 15 February Autism-Julie Hoare Meets fortnightly. Contact Sheila Cracknell 217009
- 8.30-9.30pm St. Mark's - Qi Gong** (Self help healing group) - Contact Mr F Steele 355937

Wednesday

- 10.00 am Childminding Support Group** at Putnoe Heights. Mrs S Longman 313949
- 10.00 am Day Care Centre** St.Mark's Church for those with Learning Difficulties. Contact K Stenton 07748 760082
- 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 Church Total Body Toning Contact Caroline 07778 898135 or 326096
- Luncheon Club** at Putnoe Height meets fortnightly. Next on 16 February 2005 Contact Putnoe Heights 365630
- 1.30 - 4.00pm. Bridge Club for the Retired** - Meets weekly at St. Mark's. Mrs Truss Boyce 781133
- 4.15 - 5.45pm Kumon Maths** at Putnoe Heights Contact Ms R Mistry 01908 217555
- 6. - 7.00pm Self Defence at Putnoe** Contact Mr James 07711 687449
- 6.00 -7.30 pm Brownies** at St Mark's Contact Mrs Carol Warden 219731
- 7.00pm St. Mark's Church** Bunyan Bridge. Contact Brian Sallows 407725
- 7-10pm Putnoe Guild** - Putnoe Heights 3rd Wednesday each month. Contact Mrs Dallas 212609
- 7.45 - 8.45pm Kick Boxing** Junior classes St. Mark's. 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 side chapel. Sylvia Cohen 343424 *Request for prayer can be written in the prayer diary on the information table.*
- 10.30am - 12.00am Fledglings** at 2.00pm - 3.00pm **Clinic** at St. Mark's Contact 267444

10.00am - 11.30am Yoga at Putnoe Heights

Contact 244970

12 - 1.00 pm Storybox at St Mark's Church.

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 - 3.00 pm St. Mark's Church Toddler Group.

Contact Debbie Coppenhall 356828.

1.30 -3.00pm Putnoe Heights Church Toddlers

Playtime Contact Geraldine Skeel 406828

2.30 Bedford Arts Society at St. Mark's. Contact

Celia Maddison 782901

4.00 Storybox Plus. A drama group for 4-9year

olds. Meets Putnoe 4 5-pm,- drinks from 3.30pm

Rehearsals for next month start on Thursday 10th

6.15 pm Weightwatchers at St. Mark's.

Contact Mrs Margaret Ralph 01767 224978.

6.15pm Brownies at Putnoe Mrs S Lewis 300198

7.30 - 9.30pm Club 2000 Putnoe 2nd Thursday of

the month. Contact Mrs Moreton 771261

6.15 - 7.30pm 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 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 Church 3rd Thursday each month. Contact

Mr John Broadhouse 740271

Friday

10.00 am Day Care Centre at St. Mark's Church

Contact K Stenton 07748 760082

6 -7.00 pm Self Defence at Putnoe Contact Mr

James 0771 687449 or 07810 234890

7. 30 - 9.30pm Young Peoples meeting Contact

Pastor Tarr 376841

7.30pm Music Group St. Mark's Church/monthly

6.30pm –8.30 pm Dog Training Classes at St.

Mark's Contact Mrs L. Laton 365601

Saturday

10.00am - 1.00pm & 2 - 5pm Theatre Train at St

Mark's –dancing acting, singing,- Kate Randle 01234

782414

7.15pm - 10.30pm Duplicate Bridge at St Mark's

Contact Ann or Peter 212066

Peace Project Saturday School at Putnoe Heights.

For details contact Mrs.E.Tarr 309881

Sunday

1- 3pm & 7-9pm Bibleway Church at Putnoe

Heights - Worship. Contact Revd. Tarr 309881 Mob.

07891095746

News, Views and Information

January 2005	February 2005	March 2005	April 2005
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May 2005	June 2005	July 2005	August 2005
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September 2005	October 2005	November 2005	December 2005
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The Church Calendar

St Mark's Church Council 15 June, 12 October
Circuit Men's Fellowship Lunch on the 9 February

St Mark's Leadership Team

4 May –Home of Rev Dr Joan Crossley

Deanery Synod 10 February

Putnoe Heights Leadership Team -

31 January, 25 April 2005 at 7.30pm

St Mark's Church Management Meeting

23 May, 11 July, 12 September, 2 November. All

meetings to start 7.00pm

Putnoe Church Council

7 Feb 2005, 13 June 2005, 10 Oct 2005

Pastoral Group Meeting –25 April at 10.00am

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

1995 Lent Course

The Lent Course takes place at Putnoe Heights Church. 7.30pm for 8.00pm start - finished at 9.00pm

23 February Joan Crossley

'What happened to Paul'

9 March Neil Bramble- Chapman

Paul's theology of the cross and resurrection

2 March Sam Cappleman

'Paul what did Paul really believe and can we make sense of his letters'

Battle of the sexes Swimming Spectacular

Come and support the fun event this afternoon at Bedford High School 4pm to 5.30pm. There is free car parking on site in the school car park. Entry via the side gate in Adelaide. Please be prepared to remove your shoes in the pool area. We have already raised over £1300 thanks for all your support.

Church Council at St Mark's last week heard about plans to welcome a woman priest from Africa on sabbatical, expansion and landscaping of the Garden of Remembrance, £3,600 received from Gift Aid, and much more news about church life.

Don't forget the Putnoe Church Council this week



Bible Notes

Last Sunday before Lent

Verse of Scripture Psalm 8:3-9

When I consider your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars, which you have set in place, what are we, that you are mindful of us, humankind that that you care for us? You have made us a little than the

heavenly beings, and crowned us with glory and honour.

O Lord, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth!

A Collect Prayer - Before we read we pray

Almighty Father, whose Son was revealed in majesty before he suffered death upon the cross: give us grace to perceive his glory, that we may be strengthened to suffer with him and be changed into his likeness, from glory to glory; who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

First Reading Exodus 24: 12-18

The Lord said to Moses, "Come up to me on the mountain and stay here, and I will give you the tablets of stone, with the law and commands I have written for their instruction." Then Moses set out with Joshua his aide, and Moses went up on the mountain of God. ¹⁴ He said to the elders, "Wait here for us until we come back to you. Aaron and Hur are with you, and anyone involved in a dispute can go to them." When Moses went up on the mountain, the cloud covered it, and the glory of the LORD settled on Mount Sinai. For six days the cloud covered the mountain, and on the seventh day the Lord called to Moses from within the cloud. To the Israelites the glory of the Lord looked like a consuming fire on top of the mountain. Then Moses entered the cloud as he went on up the mountain. And he stayed on the mountain forty days and forty nights. (Reader : This is the word of the Lord. **All: Thanks be to God**)

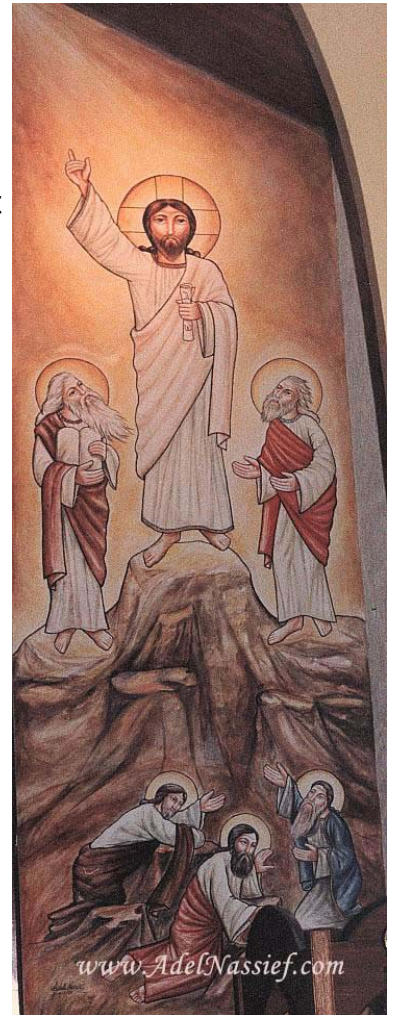
Second Reading 2 Peter 1: 16-21

We did not follow cleverly invented stories when we told you about the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we were eyewitnesses of his majesty. For he received honour and glory from God the Father when the voice came to him from the Majestic Glory, saying, "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased." We ourselves heard this voice that came from heaven when we were with him on the sacred mountain. And we have the word of the prophets made more certain, and you will do well to pay attention to it, as to a light shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts. Above all, you must understand that no prophecy of Scripture came about by the prophet's own interpretation. For prophecy never had its origin in the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.

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

Gospel Reading Matthew 17: 1-9

After six days Jesus took with him Peter, James and John the brother of James, and led them up a high mountain by themselves. There he was transfigured before them. His face shone like the sun, and his clothes became as white as the light. Just then there appeared before them Moses and Elijah, talking with Jesus. Peter said to Jesus, "Lord, it is good for us to be here. If you wish, I will put up three shelters—one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah." While he was still speaking, a bright cloud enveloped them, and a voice from the cloud said, "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased. Listen to him!" When the disciples heard this, they fell facedown to the ground, terrified. But Jesus came and touched them. "Get up," he said. "Don't be afraid." When they looked up, they saw no one except Jesus. As they were coming down the mountain, Jesus instructed them, "Don't tell anyone what you have seen, until the Son of Man has been raised from the dead. (Reader: This is the word of the Lord—**Thanks be to God**)



Post Communion Prayer

Holy God, we see your glory in the face of Jesus Christ: may we who are partakers at his table reflect his life in word and deed, that all the world may know his power to change and save. This we ask through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Commentary

There is a lot going on in the Church lectionary over the next few weeks. Last Wednesday was the feast of the Presentation of Our Lord in the Temple (called Candlemas), next Tuesday is Shrove Tuesday and Lent begins on Wednesday. What we are not celebrating is the Feast of the Transfiguration, which does not arrive until early August. The wise people who put together the readings for churches, week by week, have chosen to put the story of Jesus' Transfiguration in the sequence in which it occurred during His life, at the start of the Passion story.

While the supernatural event witnessed by Peter, James and John was both wonderful and awe-inspiring, the event gathers real meaning from its position in the last few days before Jesus began His fateful journey to Jerusalem and the Cross. Matthew places the Transfiguration account in chapter 17, and after only four more chapters recounting Jesus' healing and teaching, the Disciples are gathered outside the walls of Jerusalem.

Jesus' status as the only human to be fully part of God is difficult for us to understand. It must have been hard for His friends to understand too. In the Transfiguration they were privileged to see Jesus in His Heavenly setting, both Himself but Transfigured, to catch a glimpse of His destiny outside their time. The presence of great prophets of the past, Moses and Elijah, shows us that in God's space, Heaven, the barriers of time do not exist. The limitations of this world and its physical laws and logic do not matter either. In Heaven there is only love and one-ness with God. This glorious revelation was granted to these three men, as they watched their friend on the mountain top. They didn't know what to make of it. Peter was reduced to babbling absurdities (as I expect we all would). But the Transfiguration, which linked Jesus to His Heavenly destination must have sustained Jesus in His last painful, humiliating hours as a man, and it must have given His loving friends hope in the darkness of their disillusion and despair. So should this glimpse of the Reality beyond ours give us hope and sustain us through the dark times.

Meditation.

Lent has crept up on us this year! It seems only a few days since the children went back to school after Christmas, and we were still hoovering pine needles out of the carpets! With Ash Wednesday on 9th February, this is the last Sunday before Lent. We should be settling our hearts and minds on the days to follow, as we move towards Easter. The ministers will look different as we wear the purple stoles to signify mourning and humility. As a church, we will be preparing ourselves by studying St Paul during our Lent course. Various heroic people will be giving up chocolate and alcohol. I am of the school of thought which believes that taking up an extra activity in Lent is a good thing, too. In the next few weeks, we could read the last section of St Matthew's Gospel, starting at Chapter 17, and gain a sense of the drama and pace of Jesus' last days on earth. We can live with Him through His courageous self-giving. I pray that this Lent may be a time of growth for all of us as individuals and as churches.

Prayers.

Glorious God, give me grace to amend my life and to have an eye to mine end without grudge of death, which to them that die in thee, good Lord, is the fate of a wealthy life. Give me, good Lord, a full faith, a firm hope and a fervent charity, a love to thee incomparable above the love to myself. Give me, good Lord, a longing to be with thee, not for the avoiding of the calamities of this world, nor so much for the attaining of the joys of heaven, as for the very love of thee. (Sir Thomas More 1478 - 1535)

Father you never forget us or turn away from us even when we fail you, You sent your Son Jesus who gave his life for us, cured those who were sick, cared for those who were poor and cried for those who were sad. He forgave sinners and taught us to forgive each other. For all your love we give you thanks. We open our hearts to him; we remember how he died and rose again to live now in us. Amen (Scottish liturgy)

Hymns Service sheets

1. I want to walk 302
2. We really want to thank you Lord. (Partnership News)
3. Abba father, let me be 3
4. Putnoe I went to my field.... (Partnership News)
4. St Mark's Father hear the prayer we offer 132 (Gotts will machen)
5. Great is thy faithfulness 200

Ashes and Perspective

Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of a journey called Lent that leads us to Easter. It is a time for self-examination, penitence, renewal and new beginnings. At this time we reflect on sobering themes and examine our humanity with the goal of measuring God's grace and celebrating the depth of His love. Lent begins with ashes, because ashes can put things into perspective. On Ash Wednesday, we acknowledge our mortality, that all things will pass. (Genesis 3:19). Lent is a time to reflect on matters that we might not reflect on at other times of the year. It is a time for putting things back into perspective, for taking a good look at ourselves, at what we have become, and at what we are doing with our lives.



Ashes provide us with a perspective about what counts and what doesn't. Ashes also inform us that our time is limited and that we should take advantage of the time we have left to continue our spiritual development. We welcome Lent, therefore, with ashes for the opportunities it will afford us to clear our vision and reset our sights. We have much to do before we turn to dust. Lent is a time for tough questions. Where are you going in life? What are you doing with yourself? What kind of priorities do you live by? What changes should you need to make to ensure a more worthwhile life for yourself? What should you become more serious about? Less serious about? Are you preoccupied and overly concerned with trivia? Do you get angry over petty things? Do you lose sleep over matters that have little lasting import? Do you need to push yourself more on worthwhile projects? Do you need to slow down? Think in terms of ashes and see if it doesn't change your perspective.

Through this commitment we have access to spiritual growth and healing. Lent is a time to be penitent and to seek God's will for our life as surely as Jesus sought God's direction in the wilderness. We live our lives under the shadow of the cross and this is a good time to consider what the implications of that are. It is a time to say teach me afresh, where am I going wrong, how do you want me to change.

In the Old Testament ashes were a sign of sorrow at having let God down they were a demonstration of looking for the new direction and being sorry for what was in the past. They were a sign of repentance and looking forward. The Christian response is of course to see the new direction for us all in the cross and we make the ashes into the sign of the cross. That is where we come to find God's forgiveness and direction for our lives.

A Prayer for Ash Wednesday

Dust and ashes touch our faces, mark our failure and our falling. Holy Spirit, come, walk with us tomorrow, take us as disciples, washed and wakened by your calling. Take us by the hand and lead us through the desert sands, bring us living water, Holy Spirit, come. (Brian A Wren.)



**Ash Wednesday Service at St Mark's Church
This Wednesday 6 February at 7.30pm**

News, Views and Information

Partnership Singers Please could we re-convene to prepare for Easter Services (on 27th March), rehearsing on 4th March 7pm at St Mark's, 11th March 7pm at St Mark's-Small Hall, 18th March 7pm at St Mark's, Thursday 24th March at Putnoe.

Wednesday Bereavement Drop in Group.

The next meeting is Wednesday 2 March at St Mark's Church, 2.30pm- 4pm. Mr Michael Dallas will talk about Bedford Arts Society . On 6th April Mr. Alan Cox will speak on "London Curiosities" and on May 4th Lynne Davis will speak about the work of the Citizens Advice Bureau.

A Performance of Jesus Christ Superstar will be taking place at Putnoe Heights Church on Sunday 20th February 7.30pm. This will be presented by singers and musicians from the First Presbyterian Church from Caldwell, New Jersey, USA. Tickets will be available from the 6th Feb at Putnoe Heights and St Mark's Church Offices. Tickets are free available on a first-come, first-served basis from the church offices and that there will be a retiring collection for the Tsunami Appeal and for Autism Bedfordshire.

Sharnbrook Methodist Church are holding a Spring Lecture 'Living in China' by Michael Potter on Saturday 26 February at 7.30 pm. Tickets £7 (including supper) from Leonard Halstead 781383. Proceeds are for The Zimbabwe Food Aid Project.

TNT -meets from 6-7.45, usually at Putnoe Heights Church. Coming meetings –6th February, Bowling at Megabowl; 20th February, Jesus Christ Superstar; 6th March, Visit to Priory Youth Group; 20th March, Easter Crafts. Ring Joan, 344536 for information

Storybox Plus—First Performance today!

Rehearsals for next month start on Thursday 10th February at 4pm. Refreshments from 3.30pm

Fun Run and Teddy Bear's Picnic! 22 May at Mowsbury Park, our 5km Fun Run followed by a BBQ, Bring a Teddy to the Teddy Bear's Picnic! Time to get in training!

St Mark's Clubhouse The Clubhouse project would be very grateful to receive any of the following: double knitting wool, knitting needles, no smaller size than 3.5 mm. Also any unwanted games such as Ker Plunk, Frustration, memory games, etc. Magazines, old birthday cards. Thanks from the Clubhouse Team 315460

Spanish Evening Thank you to Ian Farthing and Janet Day and everybody who helped with this event. over £300 was raised for the Autism building extension.

Priest idol settles in Barnsley

An American Minister is now becoming a familiar sight in the parish of St Mary



Magdalene, Lundwood, near Barnsley, he is the subject of a Channel 4 television series, provisionally entitled Priest Idol. It is to be screened towards the end of the year.

The challenge faced by the Revd James McCaskill, from Pittsburgh, is to turn round a struggling parish within a year. The church, which could be faced with closure, is in a former mining community of 8000 people.

Fr McCaskill, who is 32, did part of his training at Mirfield. He said on Tuesday that he was attracted by the challenge of "going some place where the church could have a tremendous impact on the community - somewhere that was having to re-think how they did church - rather than going somewhere where they'd had a hundred years of: 'Thank you very much, we do it this way.'"

The diocese of Wakefield has successfully applied "turnaround teams" in two instances already. In Lundwood, it is keen to respect the parish's Anglo-Catholic tradition.

"I was afraid I wasn't going to be high enough, but I've found I might actually be higher than the congregation. I think Lundwood is probably a little lower down the candlestick than some of its neighbours," he said.

He is getting used to the frequent question from local youths: "Why did you leave America to come to Lundwood? It's shit." One asked him if he was "the new Pope".

"They're thankful to have a vicar living back in the community," he said. "It's interesting the number of people who have great appreciation for the parish and don't want to see the church fail here, but say: 'You'll never catch me here on a Sunday.'"

Sunday morning is unlikely to be the time for innovation: most of the 28 current worshippers appreciate "the traditional Anglican service", he said. He is working towards other ways of attracting a younger element.

Fr McCaskill praised the film crew for not being invasive. "They want to tell a positive story about this church, and they're being very helpful," he said.

Hymn for Putnoe

I went to my field and I dug up the ground,
dug up the ground, dug up the ground
I went to my field and I dug up the ground on
Monday in the morning

I went to my field and I sowed all the seeds,
sowed all the seeds, sowed all the seeds
I went to my field and I sowed all the seeds on
Tuesday in the morning

I went to my field and I watered the ground,
watered the ground, watered the ground
I went to my field and watered the ground on
Wednesday in the morning

I went to my field and I shooed off the birds,
shooed off the birds, shooed off the birds
I went to my field and shooed off the birds on
Thursday in the morning

I went to my field and I pulled up the weeds,
pulled up the weeds, pulled up the weeds
I went to my field and pulled up the weeds on
Friday in the morning

I went to my field and I prayed for the sun,
prayed for the sun, prayed for the sun
I went to my field and prayed for the sun on
Saturday in the morning

I went to my field and I harvested the corn,
harvested the corn, harvested the corn
I went to my field and harvested the corn on
Sunday in the morning

Second Hymn for Putnoe and St Mark's

Chorus

*We really want to thank you Lord,
we really want to bless your name.
Hallelujah! Jesus is our King!*

We thank you Lord for your gift to us,
your life so rich beyond compare,
The gift of Your body here on earth
of which we sing and share.

We thank you Lord, for our life together,
to live and move in the love of Christ,
Your tenderness which sets us free,
to serve you with our lives.

Praise God from whom all blessings flow,
praise Him all creatures here below,
Praise Him above you heavenly host,
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost

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.

Charles Stephen Hatchard
William James Reece Hicks (died 7.6.98)
Alan Alfred Cooper
Alan Albert Joy



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

The funeral of Eric Thomas Marshall will take place at Bedford Crematorium at 10.45am on Monday 7 February Royden

The funeral of Michael Brookman will take place at Bedford Crematorium on Wednesday 16 February at 1.45pm

The funeral of Kenneth John McGuire will take place at Bedford Crematorium at 2.30pm on Wednesday 9th February Royden

The funeral of Armin Kirs will take at Bedford Crematorium on Monday 7 February at 11.30am Bramble-Chapman

The funeral of Mrs Elizabeth Mary Begbie will take place at Bedford Crematorium on Friday 11 February Bramble-Chapman

The funeral of Marie Isabella McGregor will take place at Bedford Crematorium on Wednesday 16 February

The funeral of Mrs Janice Shaw, will take place at Bedford Crematorium on Wednesday 9th Feb at 11.30 am Crossley