



Methodist
Church

Partnership News

6 February 2011

Epiphany 5



Church of
England

Partnership Church Services Today

8.30am Holy Communion every Sunday
1st, 3rd and 5th Sunday at Putnoe Heights
2nd and 4th Sunday at St. Mark's Church

St Mark's- Morning Worship

Preacher - Deacon Jane Mason
Leadership – Mr Michael Ovenden
Intercessions – Mrs Morag Stewart

11.00 am Putnoe - Morning Worship

Preacher - Deacon Jane Mason
Leadership - Mrs Jean Kirk
Intercessions - YPF

13 February - Epiphany 6

9.30 am St. Mark's - Morning Worship

Preacher – Revd Dr Sam Cappleman
Leadership – Mrs Laura Farthing
Intercessions – Mr Chris Izzard

11.00 am Putnoe - Morning Worship

Preacher - Revd Dr Sam Cappleman
Leadership - Mrs Linda Hoar
Intercessions - Dr Tim Wilkes

Readings 1.Deut 30: 15-20 2.1 Corinthians 3:1-9
3 Matthew 5:21-37

Midweek Worship Holy Communion at St Mark's
Chapel every Wednesday at 10.00am and at Sir William
Harpur House on first Monday of every month at 10.00am

Thank You

The flowers at Putnoe Heights Church this week have been given by Keith, Glynis, Edward and Carina Armstrong in memory their beloved Mum and Nana, Vera Marsh, on her birthday.

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

We are grateful when people make donations towards flowers perhaps to celebrate a special occasion such as an anniversary or in memory of a loved one. Please contact Miss Marion Prior 303254 (St Mark's) or Ann Hitt 404186 (Putnoe Heights) or add your name to the rota in the foyers.

Prayer for This Week

God our Father,
whose Word has come among us:
may the light of faith, kindled in our hearts,
shine in our words and deeds;
through him who is Christ the Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. Amen.
Methodist Worship

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)

Deacon Jane Mason

12 Hartop Close, Bedford MK41 8HE
348091 Mobile 07807 146535
jane@thisischurch.com

The Reverend Charles Royden

The Vicarage, Calder Rise. MK41 7UY
309175 Mobile 07973 113861
vicar@thisischurch.com

For Data Protection Purposes

Please note that any items submitted for inclusion in Partnership News will automatically be posted on our website and may appear in other local media sources.

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

Partnership Pastoral Support Team Co-Ordinator & Churchyards Administrator

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

Putnoe Heights Church Centre

Open Monday to Thursday 9am - 5pm, Friday 9am - 1pm
Tel/fax & Answering Service 365630 putnoe@thisischurch.com
Centre Manager Mr Geoff Gypps 365630 mob 07947 902846
Leadership Team Mrs Samantha Ware 304058
Treasurer Mr Ian Morse 216428 treasurerph@thisischurch.com
Gift Aid Administrator John Hitt 404186
Youth Worker Emma Gordon email - 07593266091 youth@thisischurch.com

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 - Avril Williams 360605
Treasurer - Mr Ian Farthing 210892 treasurer@thisischurch.com
Gift Aid Administrator Jim Williams 360605

Regular Weekly Activities - A Guide To Our Churches

Monday

9.15 –3.45 am Mon-Fri Putnoe Heights Pre-school. See website for more details www.ThisChurch.com
Head teacher Mrs Janet Smith ☎326685
8.30-5.30pm Pre-school Mon-Fri St Mark's
9.30-3.15pm Top Marks Mon-Fri St Mark's
Headteacher Mrs. Helen Harpin ☎312634
(See website for more details)
9.00am Clubhouse at St. Mark's for those with Learning Disabilities. Karen Bywater ☎315460.
9.45am - Body Control Pilates –Putnoe Heights
Stephanie Smith ☎ 357787 or 07973174430
10.00am Bakers Barn Art Group. St Mark's Mrs Berry ☎211955
10.30am U3A Play reading St Mark's J Birks ☎219607
12.15pm Story box Putnoe Heights We welcome the under 5's and their carers to join them between 12.15 and 1.15 for a sandwich lunch followed by a Bible based story and singing. Contact Emma Gorden ☎07593266091
2pm U3A Music Appreciation - Putnoe Heights fortnightly. Next meeting Contact Linda Reed ☎ 216623
3.30pm Storybox Plus Putnoe Heights for 4-9 year olds. Meet at 3.30 for refreshments & games. Then until 5pm stories, drama, singing & craft activities.
4.15pm Rosemary Conley Diet & Fitness. Putnoe Heights. Margo Needham ☎843747 or 07881730747
4.15pm Kumon Maths Putnoe Heights. Mrs Raksha Mistry ☎01908 392698
6.00pm Brownies St Mark's. Mrs C Mathew ☎826190
6.15 pm Brownies Putnoe. Sharon Tanner ☎01767699399 or 07720713738.
6.15 Pilates at Putnoe Heights Jane Butcher 300859
7.15pm Fit for Life Yoga - Putnoe Heights Contact Jane Butcher ☎07891879571
7.30pm Sugarcraft Guild St Mark's 1st week Pat Nicholson ☎353518
7.30pm Cancer Care Society. St Mark's. 1st Week. Mr J Dewhurst ☎01908 377020
7.15pm Guides. St Mark's. Mrs Gill Lake ☎218091
7.30pm Whist Drive. St Mark's 3rd & 5th week . Next meeting—21 February Judith Stanton. ☎823313
7.30pm House group 30 The Ridgeway. The home of Eddy & Margaret Peck ☎267567.
9.15pm 'Get Fit, Stay Fit' Putnoe Heights. Mrs Diane Field ☎404976

Tuesday

9.30am Jo Jingles. St. Mark's. Music & movement for pre-school children. Renu Elston ☎07790296016
9.30am Candlewicking (Needlework). Putnoe Heights. Pat McCart ☎365507
9.15 –3.45 am Mon-Fri Putnoe Heights Pre-school365507 ☎341821
9.30am -12.30 & 4-9pm Slimming World St. Mark's. Helen Folbigg ☎351223
10am Autism Beds Adult Support Group. St Mark's. Sally Cripsley ☎350704
11.15am U3A Keep Fit Putnoe Heights for the less mobile. Sally Banks ☎ 870357
1.15pm Toddlers Playtime/Sing & Stomp - Putnoe Heights for toddlers and their carers. Run by Putnoe Childre's Centre Trudy Hamilton ☎340552

1.30pm U3A Cinema Group. St Mark's 4th Week in month . Mrs Beaumont ☎261461
2.00pm U3A Book Group. St Mark's 3rd Week Mrs Forrest ☎344043
2.00pm Library Walk W.I. Putnoe Heights, meets monthly. Morag Tomkins ☎356895
2pm U3A Photography (Group 3) St Mark's 1st Week. Contact John Farish ☎ 824984
2.15pm Putnoe Heights Women's Fellowship. Next meeting 8 February Tea and Chat For more details contact Betty Wyatt ☎350188.
2.30pm Mother Teresa Support Group. St Mark's Fortnightly . Wool and knitting needles provided. Mrs Maureen Watling ☎262225
2.15pm Tuesday Afternoon Housegroup. St Mark's Fortnightly. Mary Stubbs ☎406784.
3.45pm-6.15pm Stars School of Dance. Putnoe Heights. Esther Richardson ☎295862 or 07917582468.
6.30pm Creative Card making. Putnoe Heights Church. Carol Houghton ☎346718
6.30pm Yoga Putnoe Heights Veronica Lafferty ☎781466 or 07788750360
7pm Keep Fit. St. Mark's Jan Gregory ☎328455
7pm MT Karate [all ages] Putnoe Heights. Karen King ☎07941 264885
7.30pm Hearts in Beds. Cardiac Support Group 1st Tuesday in the month at St Mark's. Brian Ibberson ☎403497
7pm Tabernacle of Truth Church Putnoe Heights Bible study & prayers. Sacha Ojo ☎07590597891 or www.tabernacleoftruth.co.uk
7.30pm Putnoe Heights Ladies Tuesday Club - Meets fortnightly. Next meeting 8 February ' Bedford 1800-1900 - James Collet-White For more details call Janet King 313946
8.15pm - 10.15pm Bedford Advanced Dancers St. Mark's 1st Tuesday in month. Shirley Sadler ☎01767 651767

Wednesday

9.30am Body Control Pilates. Putnoe Heights. Stephanie Smith ☎357787 or 07973174430.
9.00am Clubhouse at St Mark's for those with Learning Disabilities. Karen Bywater ☎315460.
10.00am Holy Communion. St. Mark's Chapel. A half hour service followed by coffee. All welcome.
10am U3A Card Making. St Mark's Church. 4th week in the month. Janet Fitch 838689
12.30pm Luncheon Club. Putnoe Heights fortnightly. Next - 16 February Putnoe Heights Office ☎365630
1.00-3pm Police Surgery at Putnoe Heights .
1.15pm Bridge Club for the Retired. St. Mark's. Mr Barnes ☎261811
1.45 Scots Society Whist Putnoe monthly .All welcome Nancy Barr ☎268147
2-5pm Police Surgery. St Mark's Foyer. ☎349179
1.30-4.30pm U3A Craft St Mark's 1st & 3rd week. Pat Holland ☎262823
2.15pm - Fifty plus Keep Fit. Putnoe Heights Mrs Webster ☎856966
3.45.- 5.30pm Messy Church. St Mark's for children of lower school age and their carers. Bible-based story, crafts, singing and a meal. 3rd Wednesday in the month.. Wendy Waters 401834

4.15pm Kumon Maths. Putnoe Heights Mrs Raksha Mistry ☎01908 392698

6.00 pm Brownies. St Mark's. Mrs Carol Warden ☎219731

6.00pm Shooting Stars. Youth Group for 9-13yrs at Putnoe Heights fortnightly. Next meeting 26 January.

6.15pm Yoga and Relaxation Putnoe Heights Racheall Monton ☎01234 297138 or 07910835994.

6-8pm Karate. St Mark's Karen King ☎079412 64885

7.00pm Bunyan Bridge. St. Mark's Brian Sallows ☎407725

7.00pm Archaeological & Local History Society Putnoe Heights monthly. Vanessa Aykac 268098 or 07917385987

7.00pm Putnoe Guild Putnoe Heights monthly Janice Loxley ☎347073

7.00pm Line Dancing Putnoe Heights Mike Del-Boyer ☎348378

8.00pm Badminton Club Putnoe Heights All welcome. Ken Marriott ☎214867

8.00pm Tudor Reeds Folk Dance Club meet at St Mark's 1st,3rd & 5th Wednesday in month. Next meeting will be February 16 2011 Everyone welcome. All dances called, only £1 including refreshments. Ring Graham 406359 or Rosemary 405594 for more details.

8.00pm Bedford Wine and Social Club St Mark's 1st week in the month. Mrs Gansfield ☎215016

Thursday

9.30am Thursday Prayer Group. Putnoe Heights. Valerie Capon ☎356306 .

Request for prayer can be written in the prayer diary on the information table.

9.45am Yoga Putnoe Heights Denise Green ☎244970

9.45am Chat and Play St.Mark's. A group for Mums & toddlers. Jo Garner 400071 or 07719670624

11am-12noon Citizens Advice Bureau Putnoe Heights.

12pm Storybox . St Mark's welcome the under 5's and their carers to join them between 12 noon and 1pm for a sandwich lunch followed by a Bible based story and singing . Lots of fun. Contact Jaana Swaby ☎363283

1.30 - 3.00pm NHS Baby Clinic St. Mark's ☎267444

1.30pm Toddler Playtime. Putnoe Majella Atkinson ☎325293.

2pm Putnoe Bridge Club. Gerald Palmer ☎345991

2-4pm U3A Indoor Games St Mark's Contact Radmila Dancer ☎404811

2.30 - 4.30pm Bedford Art Society at St Mark's. Malcolm Smith ☎400741

4 - 7.00pm Police Surgery. St Mark's Foyer. ☎349179

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

6.15pm Brownies. Putnoe Heights Lou Watkins **7.00pm Club 2000** Putnoe Heights Nina Ovenden ☎825059

7pm U3A Folk & Poetry St Mark's 2nd & 4th week in month. Doug Ovenden ☎825059

7.15pm Putnoe Art Group Bob Wardale ☎406094

7.30pm Bedford Embroiderers' Guild St Mark's 3rd week in month. Pauline Lynham ☎01525 714517

8 -10pm Bedford Folk dancers (formerly Barn dancers) Meet weekly at Putnoe Heights . Different guest callers each week. All welcome, cost £2 Including refreshments. More details Ron Law 825574.

8.00pm Bedford Writers Circle. St Mark's 1st week in month. Mr Newton ☎01525 378193

8.00pm Magpies Women's Group St Mark's 2nd & 4th week Jean Birks ☎219607

8.00pm Brickhill Ladies Group St Mark's 1st and 3rd week in month. Julia Nicholson ☎353642

Friday

9.30-12.30pm U3A Photography (Group 1) St Marks 4th week in month Val Scrivener ☎346397

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

10am - 12 & 1.15 - 3.15pm U3A Beginners French St Mark's Joyce Fields ☎353086

12.15pm U3A Photography (Group 2). St Mark's 4th week in month. Sue Butler ☎354183

5-8pm Stars School of Dance Putnoe Heights Contact Esther Richardson ☎295862 or ☎07917 582468

2.00pm U3A Gardening Group Putnoe Heights Eve Whitehead ☎356875

6.15pm Yoga and Relaxation Putnoe Heights. Racheall Monton ☎297138 or 07910835994

7.45 - 10.45pm Bedford Astrology Club. St. Mark's. Carol Brown ☎01438 233385

Saturday

10.00am Theatretrain St Mark's. Dancing acting, singing. Kate Howard ☎01234 782414

Young Embroiderers bi monthly Putnoe Heights Terry Fletcher ☎357198

2.15pm Society of Recorder Players at Putnoe Heights. G Parry ☎01462 674792

7.00pm Duplicate Bridge. St Mark's Mrs Pillinger ☎212066

Sunday

9.30 - 10.30 Church and Sunday School at St Mark's with crèche for under 3's

11.00 - 12.00 Church and Junior at Putnoe Heights for the under 9's and Young Peoples Fellowship (Y.P.F) for our young adults. A crèche is also available.

1pm Tabernacle of Truth Church Putnoe Heights Revd. Tarr ☎360188 or ☎07866775515

6pm T.N.T. Putnoe. For 9-12 year olds (fortnightly) join us for fellowship & fun.



Diary Dates

St Mark's Church Council – 16 February

Annual General Meeting 10 April 2011

St Mark's Leadership Team 31 January

Putnoe Heights Leadership Team - 7 February

Putnoe Heights Management Meeting - .26 May

St Mark's Forum Meeting - 9 March, 10 May, 13 July

Putnoe Church Council - 14 February

Pastoral Group Meeting - 8 February 4.15pm

Churchyard Committee - 26 January at 11.00am

Brickhill Parish Council Meetings - 3rd February

Circuit meeting - 15 March at Clapham

Deanery Meeting - .

Woodland Burial Trustees – 13 February 2011

Putnoe Heights Children & Youth –

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

Epiphany 5

Opening Sentence from Scripture – Psalm 118:19

Open for me the gates of righteousness; I will enter and give thanks to the LORD

Collect Prayer (*Before we read we pray*)

Loving God, the light of the minds that know you, the life of the souls that love you, and the strength of the wills that serve you: help us so to know you, that we may truly love you, and so to love you that we may truly serve you, whom to serve is perfect freedom; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. *Methodist Worship*

Old Testament Reading – Isaiah 58: 1-9a

“Shout it aloud, do not hold back. Raise your voice like a trumpet. Declare to my people their rebellion and to the descendants of Jacob their sins. For day after day they seek me out; they seem eager to know my ways, as if they were a nation that does what is right and has not forsaken the commands of its God. They ask me for just decisions and seem eager for God to come near them. ‘Why have we fasted,’ they say, ‘and you have not seen it? Why have we humbled ourselves, and you have not noticed?’ “Yet on the day of your fasting, you do as you please and exploit all your workers. Your fasting ends in quarrelling and strife, and in striking each other with wicked fists. You cannot fast as you do today and expect your voice to be heard on high. Is this the kind of fast I have chosen, only a day for people to humble them Is it only for bowing one’s head like a reed and for lying in sackcloth and ashes?

Is that what you call a fast, a day acceptable to the LORD?

“Is not this the kind of fasting I have chosen: to loose the chains of injustice and untie the cords of the yoke, to set the oppressed free and break every yoke? Is it not to share your food with the hungry and to provide the poor wanderer with shelter—

when you see the naked, to clothe them, and not to turn away from your own flesh and blood?

Then your light will break forth like the dawn, and your healing will quickly appear; then your righteousness will go before you, and the glory of the LORD will be your rear guard. Then you will call, and the LORD will answer; you will cry for help, and he will say: Here am I.

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

Second Reading – 1 Corinthians 2: 1-12

And so it was with me, brothers and sisters. When I came to you, I did not come with eloquence or human wisdom as I proclaimed to you the testimony about God. For I resolved to know nothing while I was with you except Jesus Christ and him crucified. I came to you in weakness with great fear and trembling. My message and my preaching were not with wise and persuasive words, but with a demonstration of the Spirit’s power, so that your faith might not rest on human wisdom, but on God’s power. We do, however, speak a message of wisdom among the mature, but not the wisdom of this age or of the rulers of this age, who are coming to nothing. No, we declare God’s wisdom, a mystery that has been hidden and that God destined for our glory before time began. None of the rulers of this age understood it, for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. However, as it is written: “What no eye has seen, what no ear has heard, and what no human mind has conceived” the things God has prepared for those who love him— these are the things God has revealed to us by his Spirit. The Spirit searches all things, even the deep things of God. For who knows a person’s thoughts except their own spirit within them? In the same way no one knows the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God. What we have received is not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, so that we may understand what God has freely given us.

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



Let your light shine
before others
that they may
see your good deeds
and glorify your
Father in heaven

Jesus

Gospel Reading - Matthew 5:13-20

“You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled underfoot. “You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven. “Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them. For truly I tell you, until heaven and earth disappear, not the smallest letter, not the least stroke of a pen, will by any means disappear from the Law until everything is accomplished. Therefore anyone who sets aside one of the least of these commands and teaches others accordingly will be called least in the kingdom of heaven, but whoever practices and teaches these commands will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. For I tell you that unless your righteousness surpasses that of the Pharisees and the teachers of the law, you will certainly not enter the kingdom of heaven

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

Post Communion Prayer Almighty Father, whose Son Jesus Christ is the light of the world: may your people, illumined by your word and sacraments, shine with the radiance of His glory, that he may be known, worshipped and obeyed to the ends of the earth; for He is alive and reigns, now and for ever

Hymns (*Please distribute Mission Praise and All Age Worship*)

1. Come ye faithful raise the anthem 103 (*Tune Neander*)
God forgave my sin 181 *After confession*
2. Blessed assurance Jesus is mine 59
3. How sweet the name of Jesus sounds 251 (*Tune St Peter*)
4. Thou, whose almighty word 699 (*Tune Moscow*)
5. Forth in thy name, O Lord, I go 159 (*Tune Angels' Song*)

Commentary Some reflections on salt and light.

Today's gospel reading from Matthew is familiar to many of us, but what does it mean to be salt and light? Light is an image used throughout the bible, often representing goodness, especially as it overcomes the evil of darkness. Some of the many names we use for Jesus allude to light; morning star, light of the world etc...

It may be a clear message that we are called to bring light to people darkness and let the light of Christ illuminate our path, but what of salt?

Salt has many uses, but it is not something many of us enjoy by itself, unless perhaps you include a generous helping on your chips! But salt is an essential ingredient in so many things, ever tried making bread without it? It can be very bland, even cakes benefit from its ability to bring out the flavours of other things. Salt has been in the news recently, because of its ability to clear snow (or at least because of people frustrations with their not being enough of it in some areas). We take salt for granted, yet miss it when it is not there. Yet too much salt can be harmful, so it must be used cautiously, it makes you stop and think how much to use, too little and it's bland, too much and its inedible!

Let your speech be always with grace, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how you ought to answer everyone. Colossians 4:6

Salt is often an unnoticed part of our language, with the phrase 'worth their salt' coming from a time when soldiers were paid in salt, which was then a valuable commodity, used for preserving foodstuffs as well as seasoning them.

'Rubbing salt into the wound' is a term used when someone reminds you of a painful truth, Salt can cause pain when it comes into contact with an open wound; yet it can aid in its healing!

The point is that nobody likes having salt rubbed into their wounds, even if it is the salt of the earth.
Rebecca West.

Quotes on light are easy to find, here are just a few to guide your own thoughts;

Don't curse the darkness — light a candle. *Chinese proverb:*

“A candle loses nothing by lighting another candle.” *Anon*

“Light, even though it passes through pollution, is not polluted.” *St. Augustine of Hippo*
“When you walk towards the light, the shadow of your burden falls behind you.” *Kahlil Gibran*
“There is not enough darkness in all the world to put out the light of one small candle.” Anon
Deacon Jane Mason

Prayers for Sunday and the week ahead

Lord Jesus Christ
You are the Light of the World:
Light up our lives when we are in darkness.

In the darkness of our uncertainty —
When we don't know what to do, when decisions are hard to take:
Lord, give us light to guide us.

In the darkness of our anxiety -
When we are worried about what the future may bring,
When we don't know where to turn:
Lord, give us the Light of Your Peace.

In the darkness of our despair —
When life seems empty, when we feel there is no point in going on:
Lord, give us the Light of Your Hope, In Your Name we ask it AMEN

Jean Good

Thank you God
for those who shine like a light in our darkness
those who reveal the potential in each one of us
those who give us the courage and confidence to act for good.

Thank you God
for every glimmer of goodness,
for every rumour of righteousness,
for every breath of kindness,
for each incandescent glow of love in our world.

O God, grant that as we reflect on the experiences that happen to us
your truth and your presence may illuminate our sorrows and our joys.
Let love's unconquerable might unite all God's people in service to the Lord of light.

Lord Jesus:
You call us to be Salt and Light;
Salt in a world that is tilled with Your richness,
yet many lead insipid lives.
Light in a world that is aglow with Your brilliance,
yet people walk in shadows.

If we are able to be the salt of the earth,
help us to add flavour to the lives of others,
to sprinkle all that we do with Your love,
so that others may savour Your goodness.

If we are to be the Light of the World,
help us to walk in the brightness of Your footsteps,
to shine each day with just a little of Your radiance,
so that others may feel their darkness lifted.

When we feel insipid and lacklustre,
when Your call is too hard for us,
enrich us again with Your sweet taste,
set us on fire with Your Spirit,
so that we may be once more Salt and Light.

Jean Hackett

Footprints The next walk will be on Sunday 6th February 2011. Meet at 2.00pm on the bridge over the By-pass (Paula Radcliffe Way) in Oakley Road Clapham. Suggested parking in the culdesacs on both sides of the bridge in the old Oakley Road. A circular walk of about 3 and a 1/2 miles around Oakley. No stiles but tarmac and grass paths Further details from Margaret or Alan 07946 459470

Bedford Borough Council are holding a Green Borough Fair at St Mark's Church Community Centre on Sunday 6 February 12 - 4.00pm. Refreshments, demonstrations, displays and talks Come and find out about creating community gardens, water projects, community environmental projects, funding green projects, grown your own flower meadow, woodland crafts, small scale poultry keeping, recycling in your garden.

Commissioning and Welcome of the Revd. Tim Jackson, (Ecumenical Development Minister for Wixams) Service to be held on Sunday 6 February 2011 at 4.00pm at Lakeview School, School Lane (off Brooklands Avenue), Wixams, Bedford MK42 6BH. Wixams is a new development just south of Bedford and the partnership of the Baptists, the Methodist Church, the United Reformed Church and the Church of England in association with the Roman Catholic Diocese of Northampton have worked together to make this appointment possible.

Sale of Unwanted Gifts at Putnoe this week following Morning Service. Proceeds for Church and Mission Funds. Please look out all those items and either leave them in the office this week or bring them on Sunday. Thank you. Liz Spavins and Val Peacock.

Sustainable City Designs in China

A Public Meeting with Anthony Mackay, Architect, Urban Design Consultant. The speaker will be followed by an opportunity for comments and questions. All welcome. Parking available at rear of buildings. For further information please ring 01234 215445 (Hazel Mitchell) Bedford campus, Polhill Avenue, Room P204, Second floor, P block, University of Bedfordshire. Wednesday 9 February at, 7.30pm

Partnership Quiz Night. There will be a quiz night with a Fish and Chip supper at St Mark's Church on Saturday 12 February at 7.30pm. Tickets £6 and £3 for children B.Y.O.drinks. Please could last years winner return the Trophy to St Mark's office as soon as possible. Many thanks Avril Williams

Putnoe Heights has a new youth group up and

running! TNT has been reformed and renamed as Shooting Stars! It runs fortnightly, on Wednesday night from 6-7.30pm, for ages 9-13. The circuit youth worker, Anna Price, is joining the leaders team. We have a full program up till Easter 2011 (which is up on the youth notice board) all nights include games, activities and Christian content connected to the theme. If you know of any young people that would like to come, please contact Emma Gordon (Putnoe Heights children's and youth worker) at youth@thisischurch.com, or call on 07593266091.

Kitchen Manager Wanted. The Stables Christians Centre are looking to appoint a kitchen manager for 15 hours per week starting 1 March 2011. Please visit website www.stableschristiancentre.co.uk. For job info contact Alison Wood 01234 376237 or email admin@stableschristiancentre.co.uk

Christian Police Association - Office

Administrator Wanted. The national HQ is in Bedford and this position is offered for 20 hours a week over 5 days. Salary is by negotiation. Contact Pat Rose Bedford Heights, MK41 7PH 272865, office@CPAuk.net.

Members of Putnoe Heights Church will be saddened to hear the news of the death of Derrick Stoneham. Derrick was a lovely gentleman who attended Putnoe Heights Church for many years and supported the church in many ways. Details of the funeral service are on page 8.

Storybox at Putnoe Heights has a few gaps in our catering and tidying teams. If you, or anybody you know, are interested in helping out for no more than 2 hours a week, joining a friendly team in the kitchen or helping with the setting up and tidying contact:- Emma Gordon youth@thisischurch.com

Grass Cutting We are looking for people to cut the grass and tend the front garden borders at Putnoe Heights once a month. If you can help with this please talk to a member of the Leadership Team.

Flower Donors. Anyone wishing to contribute towards the cost of flowers at Putnoe for any Sunday in the first six months of 2011, is invited to enter their name on the rota on the board in the welcome area. Anyone wishing to contribute towards flowers at St Mark's should please contact Miss Marion Prior 303254.

Junior Church Hymn at Putnoe

Great Big God

Our God is a great big God.
Our God is a great big God.
Our God is a great big God.
And He holds us in His hands.

He's higher than a skyscraper.
He's deeper than a submarine.
He's wider than the universe.
And beyond my wildest dreams.
And He's known me and He's loved me
since before the world began.
How wonderful to be a part of God's amazing plan!

The Methodist Council met at Methodist Church House in London, on 24-25 January.

Council members discussed a report on poverty, hearing that there are an estimated 13.5 million people living in poverty in the UK. They also heard that these levels are likely to increase to 16.8 million by 2014, and that the experience of living in poverty is likely to become worse as public services face increased financial pressure. The Council expressed concern that the Government's housing benefit reform should have at its heart the needs of vulnerable families and should seek to provide affordable homes for all regardless of their means. The Council also resolved the Church should work with other partners on this matter, including the Baptist Union of Great Britain, the United Reformed Church, Church Action on Poverty and Housing Justice. Revd Ken Howcroft, Secretary of the Methodist Council, said "Concern for the poor has always been at the heart of the Gospel message and many in our churches face the challenges of poverty,

unemployment, debt and homelessness. If we wish to see less poverty, economic growth just isn't enough. The story of the last twenty years is that the poor simply didn't get their fair share."

The Council also discussed the Church's commitment to addressing climate change and voted to endorse Climate Week. Climate Week (21-27 March 2011) is a national week of positive action, seeking to offer an annual renewal of our ambition and confidence to combat climate change.

Council members also spent time in groups discussing how the Church might better embrace cultural diversity, fostering understanding and spiritual growth in a society that is becoming increasingly multi-cultural.

Other matters discussed by the Council include Methodist involvement in various types of education, from the provision of schooling to chaplaincy, and how this might develop over the coming years.



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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.

Norman Holden
Brian Joseph Perry
Amelia Winifred Turner

May the souls of all the faithful departed through the mercy of God,

Cold Weather preventing you from coming to church? Tell St Mark's Church office (Tel: 342613) and we will arrange for a taxi to include you on its route to the 9.30am service.

Forthcoming Funerals

The funeral of Michael Edward Templeton will take place at Bedford Crematorium at 4pm on Monday 7 February 2011

The funeral of Mr Derick Stoneham will take place at Bedford Crematorium on Friday 11th February 2011 at 10.45am. This will be then be followed by a memorial service at Putnoe Heights Church at 11.30am.

