

Partnership News

6 June 2004

Trinity Sunday

Methodist
Church

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

Church of
England

Church Services Today

Trinity Sunday – June 6

8.30 am Service of Holy Communion

Held at both churches

9.30am St. Mark's Church— Family Service

Preacher—The Revd Charles Royden

Leadership Team—Mr Mike Cooper

Intercessions –Mrs.Delia Shephard

11.00am Putnoe Heights—Family Service

Preacher—Revd Charles Royden

Leadership Team Mr Alan Cooper

Intercessions—Mrs Sue Allen

11 in Ordinary — June 13

8.30am Service of Holy Communion

Held at both churches

9.30am St Mark's Church -

Preacher — Mr John Stubbs

Leadership Team — Mrs Linda Parry

Intercessions — Mr Mike Elliott

11.00am Putnoe Heights

Preacher—Mr John Stubbs

Leadership Team—Mrs Sue Allen

Intercessions— Mrs Claire Peck

Thank You

The flowers at St Mark's Church this week have been given by Elizabeth Bean in memory of her husband Philip and by Barbara Joy in memory of her husband Alan

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

Prayer for Sunday

Be to us, O Christ, like the sight of the sea to wearied eyes; like a walled-in garden to a troubled mind; like home to the wanderer; like a mighty fortress to the soul pursued. Come as living water for our cleansing. Come as a song to comfort our sadness. Come as the inward voice to direct our days; and all for your name's sake. Amen
E Orchard, 1877-1955

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 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

Time for God Volunteer Kasia Piecyk

St Mark's Flat - 315455

Partnership 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 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 - Mr Ian Farthing 210892

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. Sandwich lunch, Bible Stories 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 Gill Lake 218091
- 6.15 pm Brownies** Putnoe. Alison McEwen 358583
- 7.30pm Sugarcraft Guild** meets first Monday every month at St. Mark's Mrs. Jill Williams 357020
- 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 June 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 June Hymns and Readings Contact Mrs Betty Wyatt 350188
- 2.15pm Putnoe Heights Men's Fellowship.** Next meeting 15 June Mr. H. Charie 'First Round the World' 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. 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.
- 7.30 - 9.30pm Bibleway Church** at Putnoe Heights - Bible study & prayers. Contact Pastor Tarr 348438 or 07773354129
- 7. 45 pm Putnoe Heights Ladies Tuesday Club** - Meets fortnightly . Next meeting June 8th Gt Ormond St Hospital -Revd Dr Joan Crossley Contact Mrs C Davies 219130
- 8.00pm Tuesday Housegroup** Next Meeting 8June at 16 Swindale. Contact Alison 403551 or Brian 305347.
- 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** Putnoe Height Church for those with Learning Difficulties. Contact K Stenton 07748 760082
- 10.00 am Holy Communion** at St. Mark's Chapel. This is a half hour service followed by coffee. All welcome.
- 10am Sewing & Chat** Putnoe Heights Contact Valerie Russell 01462 815966
- 12 - 1pm Putnoe Height Church** Total Body Toning Contact Caroline 07778 898135 or 326096
- Luncheon Club** at St. Mark's meets fortnightly. Next one 9 June Contact St. Mark's 342613
- 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 Brickhill Clinic** at St Mark's with **Fledglings 2.00pm—3.00pm** 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.

**12.30 -3.00pm Putnoe Heights Church Toddlers
Playtime** Contact Geraldine Skeel 406828

2.30 Bedford Arts Society at St. Mark's. Contact
Celia Maddison 782901

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 Hatton 824988

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
304865

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 Pastor Tarr 348438
Mob. 07773354129

News, Views and Information

Forthcoming meetings. Please check!

Partnership Council This week 8 June
Please note that copies of the minutes are
available this morning

Putnoe Centre Management
7 June, 26 July

St Mark's Church Council
Wednesday 16 June in the Chapel

Churchyards Committee
Next meeting 7 June at 10.00am

St Mark's Centre Management Meeting
23 June

St Mark's Leadership Team
Wednesday 8 September

Putnoe Church Council Monday 14 June

Pastoral Group Wednesday 15 September at
2.30pm

Fun Run & Sponsored Walk 5KM & 3KM. on
Sunday 13 June .in Mowsbury Park, 2.30pm
start. Prize giving at St Mark's at 4pm. BBQ,
Bouncy Castle, Balloon Race. Entry forms
available from St.Mark's Church. Please note
once you have completed your application form

you will be given a pack of information - including
the sponsorship form. If you don't feel like
walking we need helpers to steward , with
catering and generally back at base.

Putnoe Ramblers Weekend in Rutland 24 - 26
September. There are still 3 double rooms
available - please speak to Sue Allen if you have
not yet made a booking.**Summer Party** The
party has been postponed from 19 June until 21
August. Details will follow nearer the time

Mission News Kisiizi Hospital. Please pray for
Ugandan Medical Superintendent Dr. Tony
Tumuvesjiye & his staff,CMS & Tearfund are
scaling down support, so there is a need for
funds to support Hospital. (Sylvia Cohen)

**Bedford Deanery Synod and Bedford North
Methodist Circuit Meeting. June 24. date and
Venue !!!** This meeting will take place at St Mark's
Church on Thursday 24 June at 7.30pm There will be
an Anglican/Methodist Eucharist. This will be a con-
celebrated communion with The Reverend Trevor
Maines and the Reverend Jim Gorringe.



Bible Notes

Trinity Sunday

Opening Verse of Scripture Psalm 8:1

O LORD, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth! You have set your glory above the heavens.

A Collect Prayer for Trinity Sunday

Holy God, faithful and unchanging: enlarge our minds with the knowledge of your truth, and draw us more deeply into the mystery of your love, that we may truly worship you, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. (*Common Worship—contemporary language*)

First Bible Reading Proverbs Chapter 8:1-4 & 22-31

Does not wisdom call out? Does not understanding raise her voice? On the heights along the way, where the paths meet, she takes her stand; beside the gates leading into the city, at the entrances, she cries aloud: "To you, O men, I call out; I raise my voice to all mankind.

"The LORD brought me forth as the first of his works, before his deeds of old; I was appointed from eternity, from the beginning, before the world began. When there were no oceans, I was given birth, when there were no springs abounding with water; before the mountains were settled in place, before the hills, I was given birth, before he made the earth or its fields or any of the dust of the world. I was there when he set the heavens in place, when he marked out the horizon on the face of the deep, when he established the clouds above and fixed securely the fountains of the deep, when he gave the sea its boundary so the waters would not overstep his command, and when he marked out the foundations of the earth. Then I was the craftsman at his side. I was filled with delight day after day, rejoicing always in his presence, rejoicing in his whole world and delighting in mankind.

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

Second Reading Romans Chapter 5:1-5

Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand. And we rejoice in the hope of the glory of God. Not only so, but we also rejoice in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope. And hope does not disappoint us, because God has poured out his love into our hearts by the Holy Spirit, whom he has given us. (This is the word of the Lord - **Thanks be to God**)

Gospel Reading John Chapter 16:12-15

I have much more to say to you, more than you can now bear. But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all truth. He will not speak on his own; he will speak only what he hears, and he will tell you what is yet to come. He will bring glory to me by taking from what is mine and making it known to you. All that belongs to the Father is mine. That is why I said the Spirit will take from what is mine and make it known to you. (This is the word of the Lord - **Thanks be to God**)

Post Communion Prayer

Almighty and eternal God, you have revealed yourself as Father, Son and Holy Spirit, and live and reign in the perfect unity of love: hold us firm in this faith, that we may know you in all your ways and evermore rejoice in your eternal glory, who are three Persons yet one God, now and for ever.

Hymns (Please distribute special service sheets only)

1. Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty! Tune: Nicea
2. Father God, I wonder how I managed to exist & King of kings and Lord of lords,
3. Thine be the glory Tune: Maccabaeus
4. Christ is made the sure foundation — Tune: Westminster Abbey – Purcell
5. God is our strength and refuge Tune Dambusters March
- 6.

Commentary

None of our readings today use the word 'Trinity,' yet God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit is central to them. Indeed the word 'Trinity' is not used by Jesus, it is not found in the Bible at all, yet faith in the Holy Trinity is the touchstone of what it means to be a Christian. Those who do not believe in God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit cannot use the term Christian to describe themselves—Jehovah's Witnesses, Christadelphians etc.

Trinity Sunday is a special Sunday because we think about who God is—the Trinity of Father, Son, and Spirit. Even the most committed Christians find this hard because we all know that something cannot be individually three and also completely one. But this Sunday expresses and celebrates the fact that we encounter God in contradictory ways.

In our world there are some certain simple truths, like - 'water is generally wet.' But when we start to speak about things which really matter - like God, then we soon find out that we run out of words. Human language and thoughts simply fail to work. Truth is no more easily reduced to trite slogans than the scientific explanation of the creation of this wonderful world can be reduced to two chapters of Genesis. Through history we can see times when people have imagined that they did possess understanding and knowledge of God. But, actually this is an illusion, faith is not built upon the measure of the human mind.

As Christians we need to be honest about our inability to explain God. It would be wonderful to be able to speak of God in certain and simple truths, but if we are honest, certainty is the property of fools, not the learned. Those who are more intellectually secure will usually admit that the more that we find out - the less we seem to know. Issues are only seen in simple terms of black and white by the simplistic and those who seek to lead them.

Does this make our task of speaking about God more difficult? I think not, it is a fact that people cannot be argued into belief. They can be **attracted**, they can be **welcomed** and **embraced** but they cannot be **argued**. People most usually come to believe through **faith** not through **facts**. Preachers will often preach the certainty, the black and white. However, truth is much more often grey. The more we learn the more we realise that the less we know. This is not to say that we should stop the task of learning, but we must be more prepared to recognise that God is too big for us. It is human sin and pride aspire to lift us to God, humility sees that God into the human mind will not go. It is no more possible for us to understand God than to put the ocean into a bucket.

Whilst the word Trinity is not found in the Bible, the belief which it expresses is stated many times. The early Christians soon discovered that they simply could not speak of God without speaking of the three ways in which he had revealed himself to them. This does not mean that there are three Gods. It means that there is one God who has shown himself in three ways: God the Father, God the Son or Jesus, and Holy Spirit of God who came to them and made God alive in them.

Clearly this teaching is absurd from the point of human logic, it makes no human sense! All of the clever illustrations (Clover leaf, the sun as heat, light and energy etc.) which we have heard since Sunday School, they all fall short of explaining how logically God can be totally three and yet totally one. Indeed some of the best illustrations used in sermons serve only to illustrate serious heresies such as modalism! If we are honest it is something which is more clearly explained in terms of that great Christian word, **mystery**. It is a mystery of our faith. We know why we use the term 'Trinity' because it expresses our experience of a God who can be present in Jesus, whilst at the same time, the voice of God is heard to speak from heaven and the Spirit descend as a dove. But nevertheless it is a mystery.

It is important to remember that the Trinity does not actually attempt to **explain** God. It only explains what **we know about** God, that which he has revealed to us in a very elementary way. So we Christians affirm the Trinity, not as an explanation of God, but simply as a way of

describing what we currently know about God. This is honest and it should not make us frightened. In 1 Corinthians Chapter 13 it says
where there is knowledge, it will pass away. For we know in part and we prophesy in part, but when perfection comes, the imperfect disappears. When I was a child, I talked like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I put childish ways behind me. Now we see but a poor reflection as in a mirror;

Knowledge will pass away. Human knowledge will be revealed to be a lot less important than some might care to believe. As Christians we need to have the honesty to say that we see but a poor reflection of God as in a mirror, we see through a glass darkly. Our knowledge of God is imperfect, we know in part and the rest is guesswork. Moreover we will never know all the answers until we see God face to face. *Charles Royden*

Meditation

"You can't have a God. If you have, if you possess a God, if you talk about 'My God', my own little possession that helps me, my asset, then what you have is not the true and living God, father of our Lord Jesus Christ, but an Idol, a God made in your own image. And, brothers and sisters, much of the history of religion, even in the Christian Religion, is an attempt to make Gods of ourselves, by launching ego-projections into the middle distance - plop - and then having an affair with that ego-projection. That's what religion has been, so very often."
Bishop of London, Bishop Richard Chartres, writing on the Holy Trinity

Prayers for Trinity

Almighty and everlasting God, you have given us your servants grace, by the confession of a true faith, to acknowledge the glory of the eternal Trinity and in the power of the divine majesty to worship the Unity: keep us steadfast in this faith, that we may evermore be defended from all adversities; 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.

Most exalted Trinity, divinity above all knowledge, whose goodness passes understanding, who guides Christians to divine wisdom; direct our way to the summit of your mystical oracles, most incomprehensible, most lucid and most exalted, where the simple and pure and unchangeable mysteries of theology are revealed in the darkness, clearer than light; a darkness that shines brighter than light, that invisibly and intangibly illuminates with splendours of inconceivable beauty the soul that sees not. Let this be my prayer.
Denys (Dionysius) the pseudo-Areopagite (c500)

Father, you sent your Word to bring us truth and your Spirit to make us holy. Through them we come to know the mystery of your life. Help us to worship you, one God in three Persons, by proclaiming and living our faith in you. Grant this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, Who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, One God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Father, all-powerful and ever-living God, we do well always and everywhere to give you thanks. We joyfully proclaim our faith in the mystery of your Godhead. You have revealed your glory as the glory also of your Son and of the Holy Spirit: three Persons equal in majesty, undivided in splendour, yet one Lord, one God, ever to be adored in your everlasting glory. And so, with all the choirs of angels in heaven we proclaim your glory and join in their unending hymn of praise: Holy, holy, holy Lord... Lord God, we worship you, a Trinity of Persons, one eternal God.

Father God, you have created all things and through Christ revealed your salvation in all the world. Give us a vision of your glory and by your Holy Spirit fill us with life and love that we may praise and serve you through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Methodist Worship*

News, Views and Information

Whipsnade Tree Cathedral Service. There will be a short informal service for all the family at the tree cathedral. Preacher the Venerable Paul Hughes, Archdeacon of Bedford. the salvation army band will play. Teas available afterwards. Bring your own chairs or rugs. Further information phone 01582 872 406

Salvation Army Induction of Majors Ian and Jean Loxley on Thursday 1 July 7.30pm at salvation Hall, Commercial Road MK40 1QS. Fancy going? Contact ej.north@virgin.net. Eric S Northwood 357174

Guitar Concert by a variety of young musicians, at St Mark's Church, on Friday 11 June at 7.30pm. Admission ; adults £3 & £1 for children. Light refreshments will be served. In aid of Amnesty International & Bedford Education Retirement Centre.

Thank you to Judith Stanton and her supporters for their donation of £101 from their whist drive.

Network - Craft Taster and Coffee Morning on Saturday 19 June at Priory Methodist Church from 10am to 12.45pm. Proceeds in aid of Keech Cottage Hospice. Book with Eleanor Mackindy on 01234 360271

Fed up with Souless Dating? Beliefnet's mission is to help people meet their own spiritual needs, and perhaps none of these is greater than the need for companionship, connection, and love. That's why they have created Soulmatch--a dating site focusing on values, spirituality, character and beliefs--all the qualities that matter most to you. <http://www.soulmatch.com/landingpage.aspx>

News—This week the Archbishop spoke about soap operas, saying that watching them was not a waste of time. Indeed he said that they should be part of the daily life of a priest, alongside theology and ethics. Speaking at Ripon College, Cuddesdon, near Oxford, Dr Williams stressed the importance of a priest's being free to see and to be a lookout in the community. Much of what he said was as usual very deep and complex and beyond mortal understanding. However the gist of some of it was that reading novels and newspapers and watching soap operas were an

important part of listening to where our community is and being able to respond appropriately. This is important for all of us to remember. Dr Williams went on to stress the need for trustworthiness and faithfulness. He spoke of the need for priests to demonstrate commitment to a parish and "the readiness to put the short-term success on hold". Recognising that it was no longer realistic to stay in a parish for 30 years, he did say that nevertheless the reluctance of clergy to spend significant time in a parish 'reinforces a community's perception that they're not worth much'. Having been around for over 13 years, I found this particularly refreshing. Perhaps we all need to ask ourselves—how is our Christian ministry effective in listening to people around us and taking time to think about their needs. How do we seek to speak and act in a helpful manner? *Charles Royden*

Flowers in Church We are extremely grateful when donations are made for the flowers. This may be as a celebration of a happy occasion such as an anniversary or in memory of someone who has died. Contact Miss Marion Prior 303254 (St. Mark's) or Miss Jennie Cooper 404950 (Putnoe Heights).

For the theologians! The word "trinity" is a term used to denote the Christian doctrine that God exists as a unity of three distinct persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Each of the persons is distinct from the other, yet related in essence. Each is divine in nature, but each is not the totality of the Godhead. Each has a will, loves, and says "I", and "You" when speaking. The Father is not the same person as the Son who is not the same person as the Holy Spirit who is not the same person as the Father. Each is divine, yet there are not three gods, but one God. There are three persons individual subsistences, or persons. The word "subsistence" means something that has a real existence. The word "person" denotes individuality and self awareness.

Included in the doctrine of the Trinity is a strict monotheism which is the teaching that there exists in all the universe a single being known as God who is self-existent and unchangeable (Isaiah 43:10; 44:6,8).

A Book Review! Spotlight on theology – A new and significant challenge to Methodists

In a time when The Methodist Church is setting itself new priorities and establishing fresh ways of being church, a new book will challenge Methodists yet further by exploring Methodist theology since 1932, and asking how it can be used in the 21st century.

'Unmasking Methodist Theology', the product of three years work by a Task Group of the Faith and Order Committee, shows how recent Methodist theology can be a resource for the future, as well as showing how Methodism contributes to British Christianity.

Dr Clive Marsh, Co-editor and Secretary for the Faith and Order Committee, said: "It's a challenge to all Methodists, but especially to presbyters, deacons and local preachers, to be more explicit about the theology they live by and commend to others."

He continued on this theme: "It is intended to educate and inspire local Methodism, and will have even wider significance if the insights it offers and the questions it arouses also stimulate thought and action amongst preachers, group leaders of all kinds, and any who make decisions at any level on the church's behalf."

Dr Marsh acknowledged that 'there is a crisis about the state of Christianity in Britain', but said: "This book can contribute to finding answers to much larger questions: What is Christianity for? And what could Christianity offer to people in Britain today?"

Brian Beck, Co-editor and Past President of Conference, also commented on the book's significance: "This book is important because it casts its net more widely than usual in trying to discover the theology that has been driving Methodism since 1932. It is also important because it invites us to see ourselves as others see us. There is plenty here for all thinking Methodists to digest as we debate 'Our Calling'."

Adding his support, Jonathan Kerry, Co-ordinating Secretary for Worship and Learning, said: "Theological thinking in British Methodism is wide-ranging and dynamic - and now we have the evidence!"

Notes:

In their general report the Faith and Order Committee will inform Conference that: "The book is the work of twenty-five individuals (four co-editors and a further twenty-one contributors). It is intended that the book be used in many contexts and on many levels as a stimulus for theological reflection throughout the Church."

'Unmasking Methodist Theology', edited by Clive Marsh, Brian Beck, Angela Shier-Jones and Helen Wareing. Published by Continuum and available now at £12.99.

Murals recovered. Old painted wall hangings which once furnished the old church at Putnoe Heights have been discovered in a loft. These ancient relics can be viewed in church this morning. Any comments as to their future use should be directed to members of the Leadership Team.

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.



**Stella Fensome
Ada Muriel Whitfield
Percy James Doughty
Henry Newland**

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

We publish the banns of marriage and pray for the marriages of

1. **Robert Martin Day** of this Parish and **Victoria Crystal Ebbage** of the Parish of St Mary's Felmesham (30 May, 6, 13 June) This is for the 1st time of asking.

If anybody knows of any just cause or impediment why these persons may not be joined together in holy matrimony then you are to declare it.

The following funerals have been arranged

The funeral of Arthur Sidney Nettleship will take place at Bedford Crematorium on Tuesday 8 June at 1.45pm