



Methodist
Church

Partnership News

6 March 2005 Fourth Sunday of Lent Mothering Sunday

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



Church of
England

Church Services Today

8.30 Service of Holy Communion

Held at both churches

9.30am St Mark's Church—Family Worship Parade Service with baptisms

Preacher – The Reverend Neil Bramble-
Chapman

Leadership Team - Mrs Iris Perry

Intercessions - Mrs Morag Stewart

11.00am Putnoe Heights- Family Worship

Preacher - The Reverend Neil Bramble-Chapman

Leadership Team – Mr Alan Cooper

Intercessions – Ministers

13 March

8.30 Service of Holy Communion

Held at both churches

9.30am St Mark's Church - Morning Worship

Preacher – The Reverend Routley

Leadership Team - Mrs Linda Parry

Intercessions - Mrs Margaret Appleton

11.00am Putnoe Heights- Morning Worship

Preacher - The Reverend Routley

Leadership Team – Mrs Betty Wyatt

Intercessions – Mrs Sue Allen

Thank You

The flowers at Putnoe Heights Church this week have been given anonymously in celebration of Mothering Sunday

The flowers at St Mark's Church this week have been given by Dave & Janet Hobbs in memory of Dave's Father.

Prayer for Sunday

God of compassion,
whose Son Jesus Christ,
the child of Mary,
shared the life of a home in Nazareth:
strengthen us each day.
that in joy and sorrow
we may know your presence;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen

Contact Details

The Reverend Dr. Sam Cappleman

107 Dover Crescent, Bedford MK41 8QR

266952 Fax- 402624 NSM@ThisisChurch.com

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

The Reverend Neil Bramble-Chapman BA, CTM

(Day off Friday)

12 Hartop Close, Putnoe. MK41 8HE

326643 Mobile -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 for those with Learning Difficulties. Contact K Stenton 07748 760082

10.00am Supple Strength at Putnoe Heights. Contact Louise Woodcock 270302

12.00pm - 1.00pm Storybox at Putnoe Heights. Service for parents/carers & children under 5. Children's activities songs and prayers, all in one hour from.

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

6.00pm Brownies St Mark's. Mrs C Mathew 400987

6.15 pm Brownies Putnoe. Contact Penny Fulham406045

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

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

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

7.30pm Creative Needles at Putnoe Heights. Mrs C Cannon 404319

7.30pm Whist Drive - At St Mark's each month. Next 21 March Moorfields & Sight Concern, St. Mark's Contact Mrs. Judith Stanton. 823313

7.30pm Housegroup 30 The Ridgeway. The home of Eddy & Margaret Peck 267567.

8.00pm 'Get Fit, Stay Fit' at Putnoe Heights. Mrs Diane Field 404976

Tuesday

9.30am Candlewicking (Needlework) at Putnoe Heights. Contact Mrs Olive Shotbolt 267203

9.30am Jo Jingles at St. Mark's. Music & movement for pre-school children. Contact Renu Elston 01908 282866

10.00am Keep Fit at Putnoe Heights. Contact Mrs Stileman 822230

1.30-3pm Toddlers Playtime at Putnoe Heights. Contact Geraldine Skeel 406828

12 noon - 10.00 pm Slimming World at St. Mark's. Sessions start at 12, 1.30pm, 4pm, 5.30pm & 7.15pm Contact Val Careless 345213.

1.15pm Library Walk W.I. at Putnoe Heights meets monthly. Next meeting 19 April. Contact Morag Tompkins 356895

1.30pm Body Control Pilates at Putnoe Heights. Contact Stephanie Smith 357787

2.15pm Putnoe Heights Women's Fellowship - Next meeting 8 March Mr.Graham Brown 'Peru.'. Contact Mrs Betty Wyatt 350188

2.15pm Putnoe Heights Men's Fellowship. Next meeting 15 March 2005 –Rev. Neil Bramble-Chapman. Contact Lawrence Wyatt 350188.

2.30pm Mother Teresa Support Group. Meets fortnightly at St. Mark's. Wool and knitting needles provided. Contact Mrs Joan Gravett 356911 and Mrs Marjorie Taylor 305709

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

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

6.45pm Guides at Putnoe Heights. Contact Emma Holloway 293792

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

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

7.30pm Bibleway Church at Putnoe Heights. Bible study & prayers. Contact Revd.Tarr 309881 or 07891095746

7.45 pm Putnoe Heights Ladies Tuesday Club - Next meeting 15 'Evacuees in WW2' Mr. Abbot.. Meets fortnightly. Contact Madge Walsh 359088

8.30-9.30pm St. Mark's - Qi Gong (Self help healing group) - Contact Mr F Steele 355937

Wednesday

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

9.30am Bedford U3A at Putnoe Heights meets bi-monthly. Next meeting 23 March. Contact Jenny Coggins 266379

10.00 am Day Care Centre St Mark's 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 Contact Caroline 07778 898135 or 326096

Luncheon Club at Putnoe Height meets fortnightly. Next meeting 16 March 2005 Contact Putnoe Heights 365630

1.30 - 4.00pm. Bridge Club for the Retired at St. Mark's. Contact Mrs Truss Boyce 781133

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

6.00pm Self Defence at Putnoe Contact Mr James 07711 687449

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

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

7.00pm Archaeological & Local History Society meets monthly at Putnoe Heights. Next meeting 16 March. Contact Sylvia Woods 365095

7pm Putnoe Guild meets monthly at Putnoe Heights. Next meeting 16 March. Contact Pam Holley 771964

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

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

Thursday

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

9.45am Yoga at Putnoe Heights. Contact Karen Simpson 244970

10.30am - 12.00am Fledglings at St Mark's **2.00pm - 3.00pm Clinic** at St. Mark's Contact 267444

12pm Storybox at St Mark's. Service for parents, carers & children under 5. Sandwich lunch, Bible Stories, Children's activities, songs & prayers, all in one hour from 12-1pm.

1.30-3pm Toddler Playtime at Putnoe Heights. Contact Geraldine Skeel 406828

1.30pm St. Mark's Church Toddler Group. Contact Debbie Coppenhall 356828.

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

2pm U3A Indoor Games at Putnoe Heights. Contact Radmila Dancer 404811

4.00 Storybox Plus at Putnoe Heights. A drama group for 4-9year olds. Meets 4 5-pm,drinks from 3.30pm

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

6.15pm Brownies at Putnoe Heights . Contact Helga Nash 218521

7.00pm Club 2000 at Putnoe Height. Next meeting 24 February. Contact Pat Stidolph 345247

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

7.30pm - 11.00pm Bedford Senior Chess Club at St Mark's Contact Mr P Housden 376597

7.30 - 9.30pm Embroiderer's Guild St Mark's- 3rd

Thursday of the month. Contact Mrs K Sage 771525

7.45pm. Housegroup-Meets fortnightly at 3 Little Headlands. Newcomers always welcome. Contact Betty Wyatt 350188

8.00 - 10pm Bedford Writers Circle meets at St Mark's 3rd Thursday each month. Contact Mr John Broadhouse 740271

Friday

9.30am U3A Exercise at Putnoe Heights. Contact Carole Maunder 301325

10.00 am Day Care Centre at St. Mark's Contact K Stenton 07748 760082

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

7. 30pm Bibleway Young Peoples meeting Contact Pastor Tarr 376841

6.30pm -8.30 pm Dog Training Classes at St. Mark's. Contact Mrs L. Laton 365601

Saturday

9.30am Stars School of Dance at Putnoe Heights. Contact Esther Sancto 272517

10.00am - 1.00pm & 2 - 5pm Theatre Train at St Mark's -dancing acting, singing,- Kate Randle 01234 782414

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

Embroiderers Guild Saturday Workshop at Putnoe Heights. Meets monthly next meeting 26 February. Contact Kathleen Sage 771525(check also for Young Embroiders)

7.15pm - 10.30pm Duplicate Bridge at St Mark's Contact Ann or Peter 212066

Sunday

1- 3pm & 7-9pm Bibleway Church at Putnoe Heights - Worship. Contact Revd. Tarr 309881 Mob. 07891095746

6.45pm TNT (The Nearly Teens) meet fortnightly at Putnoe Heights for various fun activities. Contact Putnoe Office 365630

News, Views and Information

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

Putnoe Heights Leadership Team -

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

13 June 2005, 10 Oct 2005

Pastoral Group Meeting -27 April at 2.pm.

Church yard Committee 25 April at 10 pm.

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



Bible Notes - Fourth Sunday of Lent

Verse of Scripture

How often have I longed to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings. Matthew Chapter 23:37

A Collect Prayer - Before we read we pray

God of compassion, whose Son Jesus Christ, the child of Mary, shared the life of a home in Nazareth: strengthen us each day, that in joy and sorrow we may know your presence; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

First Reading 1 Samuel 16: 1-13

The LORD said to Samuel, "How long will you mourn for Saul, since I have rejected him as king over Israel? Fill your horn with oil and be on your way; I am sending you to Jesse of Bethlehem. I have chosen one of his sons to be king." But Samuel said, "How can I go? Saul will hear about it and kill me." The LORD said, "Take a heifer with you and say, 'I have come to sacrifice to the LORD.' Invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you what to do. You are to anoint for me the one I indicate." Samuel did what the LORD said. When he arrived at Bethlehem, the elders of the town trembled when they met him. They asked, "Do you come in peace?" Samuel replied, "Yes, in peace; I have come to sacrifice to the LORD. Consecrate yourselves and come to the sacrifice with me." Then he consecrated Jesse and his sons and invited them to the sacrifice. When they arrived, Samuel saw Eliab and thought, "Surely the LORD's anointed stands here before the LORD." But the LORD said to Samuel, "Do not consider his appearance or his height, for I have rejected him. The LORD does not look at the things man looks at. Man looks at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart." Then Jesse called Abinadab and had him pass in front of Samuel. But Samuel said, "The LORD has not chosen this one either." Jesse then had Shammah pass by, but Samuel said, "Nor has the LORD chosen this one." Jesse had seven of his sons pass before Samuel, but Samuel said to him, "The LORD has not chosen these." So he asked Jesse, "Are these all the sons you have?" "There is still the youngest," Jesse answered, "but he is tending the sheep." Samuel said, "Send for him; we will not sit down until he arrives." So he sent and had him brought in. He was ruddy, with a fine appearance and handsome features. Then the LORD said, "Rise and anoint him; he is the one." So Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the presence of his brothers, and from that day on the Spirit of the LORD came upon David in power. Samuel then went to Ramah. (Reader : This is the word of the Lord. **All: Thanks be to God**)

Second Reading - Ephesians 5: 8-14

For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of light (for the fruit of the light consists in all goodness, righteousness and truth) and find out what pleases the Lord. Have nothing to do with the fruitless deeds of darkness, but rather expose them. For it is shameful even to mention what the disobedient do in secret. But everything exposed by the light becomes visible, for it is light that makes everything visible. This is why it is said: "Wake up, O sleeper, rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you." (This is the word of the Lord. **All: Thanks be to God**)

Gospel Reading - John 9: 1-11

As he went along, he saw a man blind from birth. His disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" "Neither this man nor his parents sinned," said Jesus, "but this happened so that the work of God might be displayed in his life. As long as it is day, we must do the work of him who sent me. Night is coming, when no one can work. While I am in the world, I am the light of the world." Having said this, he spit on the ground, made some mud with the saliva, and put it on the man's eyes.

"Go," he told him, "wash in the Pool of Siloam" (this word means Sent). So the man went and washed, and came home seeing. His neighbours and those who had formerly seen him begging asked, "Isn't this the same man who used to sit and beg?" (This is the word of the Lord. **All: Thanks be to God**)

Some claimed that he was. Others said, "No, he only looks like him." But he himself insisted, "I am the man." "How then were your eyes opened?" they demanded. He replied, "The man they call Jesus made some mud and put it on my eyes. He told me to go to Siloam and wash. So I went and washed, and then I could see."

(Reader: This is the Gospel of Christ. **All : Praise to Christ our Lord.**)

Post Communion Prayer

Merciful Lord, grant your people grace to withstand the temptations of the world, the flesh and the devil, and with pure hearts and minds to follow you, the only God; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

Hymns

St Mark's Church (Please distribute special service sheets) 1. To God be the glory, 2. As the deer pants, 3. The Spirit lives, 4. Go forth and tell

Putnoe Heights Church (Please distribute Family worship and Mission Praise)

1. To God be the glory 708, 2. As the deer 37, 3. The Spirit lives 664 (omit verse 5), 4. Go forth and tell 178

Commentary

"For centuries light has been used as a symbol of purity and the presence of The Divine in the Christian Faith and in other Faiths too. It tells us that there is something Holy present, something other and different is in our midst. Today in our Baptism service, a candle is given as a sign of the Light of Christ, who casts out all darkness and evil. It states that the Baptised is now a child of Christ and brought into the Body of Christ, the Church Family. Later in our prayers we light a candle, again representing Jesus Christ as the Light of the World, illuminating our darkness. Here the candle has added significance in being a symbol of the hope of the Resurrection to Eternal Life in Jesus Christ. It also acts as a reminder of our prayers of remembrance for those who have died and for the bereaved.

Here in our readings from the the Gospel of John and from Ephesians, we have the sense that seeing the light is crucial to finding Salvation and living the Christian Faith as a disciple of Christ. The Blind man is able to see once again "so that the work of God might be displayed in his life" Jn9vs3. His healing is a revelation of sight to both him and the people around him. It declares that God is real and present in his life and brings the wider message that people must turn to follow the healer, Jesus as their Lord and Saviour. In Ephesians, Paul makes it quite clear that we must walk as children of light, illumined by the Light of Christ. He instructs people that they must cast off the old ways of sin and take up a new life of purity and holiness in Christ. It was a challenge to the first Christians who followed Jesus and it is a challenge for us today to follow in the footsteps of Christ.

In our journey as disciples, may our path always be illumined by the Light of Jesus Christ, the Light of the World." Neil Bramble-Chapman

Meditation

Gather your little ones to you, O God, as a hen gathers her brood to protect them. Jesus, like a mother you gather your people to you; you are gentle with us as a mother with her children. Often you weep over our sins and our pride, tenderly you draw us from hatred and judgement. You comfort us in sorrow and bind up our wounds, in sickness you nurse us, and with pure milk you feed us. Jesus, by your dying we are born to new life; by your anguish and labour we come forth in joy. Despair turns to hope through your sweet goodness; through your gentleness we find comfort in fear. Your warmth gives life to the dead, your touch makes sinners righteous. Lord Jesus, in your mercy heal us; in your love and tenderness remake us. In your compassion bring grace and forgiveness, for the beauty of heaven may your love prepare us. *From St Anselm of Canterbury*

Prayers for Sunday and the Week Ahead

May God inspire all parents and grandparents, teachers and carers who nurture our children.
May we all by our Christian conduct provide good examples which may lead them to follow Christ.

For any for whom this has been a hard day;
For any who have suddenly known fear;
For any suddenly covered with shame;
For any involved in an accident;
For any faced with a serious medical report;
For any in hospital for the first time;
For any so ill that recovery is in doubt;
For any with a disease that baffles the specialists;
For any who have sinned against society, and are now before the court.
Hold all such needy ones in your love, O Lord.
In Jesus' name. Amen.

Thank you God for the love of our mothers:
thank you God for their care and concern;
thank you God for the joys they have shared with us;
thank you God for the pains they have borne for us;
thank you God for all that they give us;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

As children of a loving God who always listens to our cries, let us pray to our Father in heaven.

Loving God, you have given us the right to be called children of God. Help us to show your love in our homes that they may be places of love, security and truth.
Loving God, Jesus, your Son, was born into the family of Mary and Joseph; bless all parents and all who care for children; strengthen those families living under stress and may your love be known where no human love is found.
Loving God, we thank you for the family of the Church. We pray that all may find in her their true home; that the lonely, the marginalized, the rejected may be welcomed and loved in the name of Jesus.
Loving God, as we see the brokenness of our world we pray for healing among the nations; for food where there is hunger; for freedom where there is oppression; for joy where there is pain; that your love may bring peace to all your children.

Mothering Sunday

The fourth Sunday in Lent is called Mothering Sunday. There are traditions associated with Mothering Sunday in England which date back as long ago as the 16th century. It is told that this was the day when people were encouraged to return to worship in their 'mother church' where they had been baptised. People who usually attended the local parish church, would make a longer journey to the 'mother church' or cathedral of the Diocese. Girls in domestic service would bake to show their mothers their new skills in the form of a gift, traditionally a simnel cake. On this day many girls who were in service were allowed time off from domestic chores to visit their mothers and their family.

Today Mothering Sunday is a popular day when Christians choose to use the occasion to think about all things which concern motherhood. We give thanks for the Church as Mother, the Virgin Mary as the mother of Jesus, we remember that God cares for us like a mother and last but not least we give thanks for our own mothers.

Mothering Sunday is the fourth Sunday in Lent and it is a time of special for thanksgiving. Sunday is the one day of joy in Lent, when flowers abound in all churches and when people are allowed a time off from the penitential season. It is also known as Mid-Lent Sunday, Refreshment Sunday or Laetare Sunday. The Latin name of Laetare, means rejoice.

News, Views and Information

Tuesday Club - The Putnoe Heights Church Leadership Team would like to thank the Tuesday Club for the kind donation of £150 towards general church finances. We are grateful to the various church group for their continuing support.

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

Wednesday Bereavement Drop in Group. Next meeting is on 6 April when Mr. Alan Cox will speak on "London Curiosities" and on May 4 Lynne Davis will speak about the work of the Citizens Advice Bureau.

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!

Maundy Thursday. The eucharist with the blessing of oils takes place on Maundy Thursday, March 24th, at the Cathedral and Abbey church of St Alban at 11.00am. It is a service at which the Bishop calls together all clergy, Readers and lay ministers who hold his licence in the Diocese and also those who are retired. But it is also a service at which anyone is welcome to be present and it is hoped that many people from congregations around the Diocese will wish to come.

At 7.30pm we will have our own service at Putnoe Heights Church.

The Lent Course 2005

Looking to Easter - The Gospel According to Paul

St Marks and Putnoe Heights Lent Course

The last Lent talk will be given on Wednesday 9 March

Paul, where was he going; what lies beyond the cross? Revd Neil Bramble-Chapman

Putnoe Heights church. Start at 8.00pm each week and we'll finish at 9:00 pm promptly.

London Marathon April 17 2005. Kenelm

Richardson (Morwenna's brother) will be running the London Marathon to raise money for a children's charity. If anyone wishes to sponsor him, his website which has full details can be found at; <http://www.justgiving.com/kenelm>. For those who are not yet Internet connected his parents Keyth and Sara hope to have ordinary sponsorship forms soon, and can be contacted on 330029

Can we have your Tesco Vouchers please. St. Mark's Church Preschool will be collecting Tesco vouchers for computers for schools from 7 March until 15 May. Please ask family and friends to collect for us. Thank you. Helen Harpin.

Thomas Mckay (St Mark's Church) is cycling from London to Paris and back in aid of Raleigh International. He is going to Malaysia, Sabah region, in February 2006 for 10 weeks to take part in community and environmental projects. The cycle ride is from 30th March to 5th April 2005 to raise funds for the work in Malaysia. Any sponsors/donations would be gratefully received. Details in St Mark's church office.

TNT Just a reminder that we are invited to go to Priory this weekend. Meet at Priory and 6.15, ask to be collected at 7.45. They are planning games and also some quizzes. See you then, Joan

'Kaleidoscope' a musical revue by the Millers Entertainment Group, at Priory Methodist Church on Saturday 12 March at 7.30pm. Admission £5 ..including light refreshments. (Children Free if accompanied by an adult) in association with Bedford NCH Support Group. Contact Vera Pearson 270737 or Margaret Standley 305352.

Brickhill Lower School is hoping to recruit a Community Governor from the Brickhill area to join the school's Governing Body. The commitment would be to attend six Governing Body meetings plus three sub-committee meetings per year and to visit the school for half a day once per term. In return they can offer an interesting and rewarding time helping a successful local school. If you live or work in the Brickhill area and are interested in becoming a school governor, please contact the clerk to the Governing Body for more information. Tricia

Kane. Brickhill Lower School Bedford. 01234 401404.

The Good Friday Witness 12 noon 25th March 2005, St.Paul's Square. All welcome.

NCH -On the box quiz 2005. Dear supporters , do you like a challenge ? I have copies of an entertainment quiz priced at £1 each (a donation to NCH). It is great fun and if you send in your completed form you could win the first prize of £25 .Please support this worthwhile cause. Grace Foster.

Circuit Men's Fellowship Lunch just a reminder of our next meeting Wednesday 9th march at St. marks 12.30 for drinks/lunch at 12.45. All welcome please advise as are guests. Please conatc Chris Izzard via St Mark's Church Office.

Christian Teachers Jane Crawford & Jo Ann Gaunt are Christian schools workers in the Bedford area would love to meet with other Christian teachers, to share support, ideas & encouragement. Meet Sunday 13 March from 3 - 5 pm at Bromham Baptist Church, Village Road, Bromham. Contact 01234 326082.

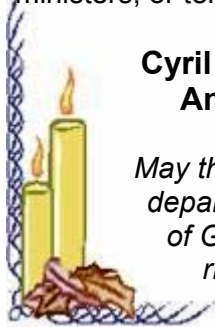
Have your say on Women Bishops! If you would like to express a view on the issue, to be debated by General Synod in July, there are postcards available in the foyer after the service. We will post them for you.

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.

**Cyril Hayward Woodcraft
Annie Rose Belcher**

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



From Storybox Plus

My Mum's really great
so loving and caring
There's nothing my Mum cannot do

My mum's really great
So loving and caring
There's nothing my Mum cannot do

The washing she does
The ironing she does
and a cuddle when I'm feeling blue

My Mum's really great
So loving and caring
There's nothing my Mum cannot do

The family of Vera Hatchard would like to thank church members and friends for all their support and kind messages of sympathy. A special thank you to Neil and Charlie for the funeral service.

Rest In Peace.

It was with sadness that we heard this week of the death of two long and loyal members of Putnoe Heights Church. It is many years since Ruth Alexandre was well enough to come to church but she has been visited regularly and members of the pastoral support team have taken Holy Communion to her in her home for many years. Ella Sharpe attended church until quite recently when she became poorly and she died in Bushmead Court this week. They will both be greatly missed and our thoughts and prayers are with their families. Details of the funeral service are shown below.

The funeral of Ella Sharpe will take place at Putnoe Heights Church on Friday 11 March at 1.30pm, followed by a burial at Bedford Cemetery, Norse Road.

The funeral of Ruth Alexandre will take place at Putnoe Heights Church on the 18 March at Putnoe Church at 1.30pm.

The funeral of Ian Michael Clooney will take place at Bedford Crematorium on Friday 11 March

