



Methodist
Church

The Partnership

7 March 2004

Second Sunday in Lent

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



Church of
England

Church Services Today

8.30am Service of Holy Communion

Held at both churches

9.30am St Mark's Church – Family Service

Preacher – Rev Charles Royden

Leadership Team - Mr Jim Williams

Intercessions – Rev Neil Bramble-Chapman

11.00am Putnoe Heights Church - Family Service

Preacher – Rev Charles Royden

Leadership Team - Mr Stephen Clare

Intercessions - Rev Neil Bramble-Chapman

Sunday 14th March

8.30am Service of Holy Communion

Held at both churches

9.30am St Mark's Church – Morning Worship

Preacher – Rev Dr Joan Crossley

Leadership Team - Mr Ian Farthing

Intercessions – Mr Brian Leeson

11.00am Putnoe Heights Church -Morning Worship

Preacher – Rev Dr Joan Crossley

Leadership Team - Mr Peter Parker

Intercessions - Mr Peter Bailey

Thank You

The flowers at Putnoe Heights Church have kindly been given by Diana Johnson in memory of her mother Jean Brown

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).

Prayer for Sunday

Christ, Son of the living God,
who for a season laid aside the divine glory
and learned obedience through suffering:
teach us in all our afflictions
to raise our eyes to the place of your mercy
and to find in you our peace and deliverance.
We make our prayer in your name. Amen.
Methodist Worship

Contact Details

The Reverend Dr. Sam Cappleman

107 Dover Crescent, Bedford MK41 8QR

266952 Fax- 402624 Sam_Cappleman@hotmail.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 Pieczyk

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.*

Putnoe Heights Church Centre (Open 9am - 1.00pm)

Tel/fax & Answering Service 365630 www.ThisisChurch.com

Centre Manager Miss Wendy Rider 342613

Wendy @thisischurch.com

Leadership Team - Mr Stephen Clare 308299

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 - 5.pm)

Tel/fax & Answering Service 342613 www.ThisisChurch.com

Centre Manager Miss Wendy Rider 342613

Wendy @thisischurch.com

Leadership Team - Mr Jim Williams 360605

Treasurer - Mr John Day 295592 treasurer@Thisischurch.com

Gift Aid Administrator Mr Jim Williams 360605

Hymns are printed under CCL Lic No. 1501

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 at St. Mark's Church G.O.L.D. (*Growing to Overcome Learning Difficulties*).

Day Care Centre - Mrs. Karen Bywater 269515

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 17 March 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

12.30 -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 - March 9 Members ..Bible Texts. Contact Mrs Betty Wyatt 350188

2.15pm Putnoe Heights Men's Fellowship. Next meeting 6 April Members Afternoon 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 16 March Holiday Slides Bob Burn. Contact Mrs C Davies 219130

8.00pm Tuesday Housegroup will resume after Easter. Meeting is 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 G.O.L.D. (*Growing to Overcome Learning Difficulties*) meets at Putnoe Heights Church. Day Care Centre. Contact Mrs Karen Bywater 269515

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 Boding Toning Contact Caroline 07778 898135 or 326096

Luncheon Club at St. Mark's meets fortnightly. Next one 17 March 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 at St. Mark's - G.O.L.D.

(Growing to Overcome Learning Difficulties). Day Care Centre - Contact Mrs. Karen Bywater 269515

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

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 8 June

Putnoe Centre Management

26 Apr, 7 Jun, 26 Jul,

St Mark's Centre Management

Church Council at St Mark's

Wednesday 16 June in the Chapel

Churchyards Committee

Next meeting

Putnoe Leadership Team Meeting

Tuesday 2 March at Putnoe Heights Church

Wednesday 5 May.

St Mark's Leadership Team

28th April at Jim Williams, Wednesday 26 May,

Tuesday 7 September

Annual Congregational Meetings Sunday 9 May

3.00pm at St Mark's and 4.00pm at Putnoe

Putnoe Church Council

Monday 14 June

Future Event The Fun Run June 13th at 2.30pm

St Mark's More details to follow

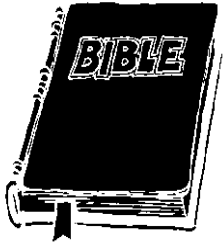
Pastoral Group The following dates have been proposed for our next meetings

Wednesday 17 March 11.30am Video Training at St Mark's

Tuesday 20 April 2.30pm Group Meeting at St Mark's. Would team members please advise Mary Stubbs if you are not able to make these meetings.

Covenant Referendum Campaign Some of you have been quite distressed to receive literature from a group calling themselves "The Covenant Referendum Campaign". Please be assured that your names and addresses were not given out by the Partnership. We would never disclose such information to third parties. This group are totally opposed to the Anglican Methodist Covenant and they seek to gain enough support to enable a Referendum of all Methodist Members on this matter, with the ultimate aim of destroying the Covenant. This is despite the fact that the Covenant has the support of the Church of England General Synod and the Methodist Conference. This group are opposed to LEP's and regard ecumenical activity as anti-Christian. As participants in a Partnership between the Methodist Church and Church of England, this is deeply offensive and also false.

Please disregard the literature, or if you feel you want to discuss the matter further, please contact one of the Ministers. *Neil Bramble-Chapman*



Bible Notes, Lent 2 (Year C, Purple)

Opening Verse of Scripture Psalm 27:

The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The Lord is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid? We will offer sacrifices in the Lord's tent With shouts of joy; we will sing and make melody to the Lord.

Collect Payer for the Day - Before we read we pray

Almighty God, you show to those who are in error the light of your truth, that they may return to the way of righteousness: grant to all those who are admitted into the fellowship of Christ's religion, that they may reject those things that are contrary to their profession, and follow all such things as are agreeable to the same; through our Lord Jesus Christ, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

First Bible Reading Genesis 15:1-12 & 17-18 *God's Covenant With Abram*

After this, the word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision: "Do not be afraid, Abram. I am your shield, your very great reward. " But Abram said, "O Sovereign LORD , what can you give me since I remain childless and the one who will inherit my estate is Eliezer of Damascus?" And Abram said, "You have given me no children; so a servant in my household will be my heir." Then the word of the LORD came to him: "This man will not be your heir, but a son coming from your own body will be your heir." ⁵ He took him outside and said, "Look up at the heavens and count the stars-if indeed you can count them." Then he said to him, "So shall your offspring be." Abram believed the LORD , and he credited it to him as righteousness. He also said to him, "I am the LORD , who brought you out of Ur of the Chaldeans to give you this land to take possession of it." But Abram said, "O Sovereign LORD , how can I know that I will gain possession of it?" So the LORD said to him, "Bring me a heifer, a goat and a ram, each three years old, along with a dove and a young pigeon." Abram brought all these to him, cut them in two and arranged the halves opposite each other; the birds, however, he did not cut in half. Then birds of prey came down on the carcasses, but Abram drove them away. As the sun was setting, Abram fell into a deep sleep, and a thick and dreadful darkness came over him.

¹⁷ When the sun had set and darkness had fallen, a smoking firepot with a blazing torch appeared and passed between the pieces. On that day the LORD made a covenant with Abram and said, "To your descendants I give this land, from the river of Egypt to the great river, the Euphrates-(This is the word of the Lord -- **Thanks be to God**)

Second Reading **Philippians 3:14 – 4:1**

I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus. All of us who are mature should take such a view of things. And if on some point you think differently, that too God will make clear to you. Only let us live up to what we have already attained. Join with others in following my example, brothers, and take note of those who live according to the pattern we gave you. For, as I have often told you before and now say again even with tears, many live as enemies of the cross of Christ. Their destiny is destruction, their god is their stomach, and their glory is in their shame. Their mind is on earthly things. But our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Saviour from there, the Lord Jesus Christ, who, by the power that enables him to bring everything under his control, will transform our lowly bodies so that they will be like his glorious body.

Philippians 4

Therefore, my brothers, you whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, that is how you should stand firm in the Lord, dear friends! (This is the word of the Lord -- **Thanks be to God**)

Matthew 13:31-35

At that time some Pharisees came to Jesus and said to him, "Leave this place and go somewhere else. Herod wants to kill you." He replied, "Go tell that fox, 'I will drive out demons and heal people today and tomorrow, and on the third day I will reach my goal.' In any case, I must keep going today and tomorrow and the next day--for surely no prophet can die outside Jerusalem!

'O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, you who kill the prophets and stone those sent to you, how often I have longed to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, but you were not willing! Look, your house is left to you desolate. I tell you, you will not see me again until you say, 'Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.' (This is the word of the Lord -- **Thanks be to God**)



Post Communion Prayer

Almighty God, you see that we have no power of ourselves to help ourselves: keep us both outwardly in our bodies, and inwardly in our souls; that we may be defended from all adversities which may happen to the body, and from all evil thoughts which may assault and hurt the soul; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Hymns (Please distribute Mission Praise and special service sheet)

1. Sing to God new songs of worship 600
2. Give thanks 170 & For I'm building a people 151
3. He who valiant be 224
4. O Lord my God 506
5. Lord of creation to you be all praise 440

Commentary

In the film, 'The Bodyguard' Kevin Costner stars as an ex-Secret Service agent who was injured as a bodyguard having 'caught a bullet' for the President. He reluctantly takes a job as a bodyguard for Rachel Marron (Whitney Houston), a superstar singer and actress. In one scene, the superstar's young son asks the bodyguard what he fears most; he answers, "I'm afraid of not being there."

This is stirring stuff, the body guard thinks nothing of his own safety, he is willing to lay down his life for the one he has to protect. In contrast to this type of bravery, we often think of the disciples and friends of Jesus as being cowards, running away when danger came. This is surely unfair, some of them would have been prepared to put their lives up to defend Jesus and there were people who wanted to be like a bodyguard for Jesus. Think of that scene in the Garden of Gethsemane (Matthew 26:47). Judas, the disciple who betrayed Jesus for money, came to the Garden with a large crowd armed with swords and clubs, sent from the chief priests and the elders of the people. Judas goes to Jesus and kissed him, but this was no kiss of affection, it was a sign of betrayal, the gang must arrest the one Judas marks with his lips. On the sign, the men stepped forward, seized Jesus and arrested him.

But we are told that the disciples of Jesus did not run away, one of his companions reached for his sword, drew it out and struck one of the men with the high priest, cutting off his ear. We do not know who it was who drew a sword, but we do know that this was an act of bravery. In the face of a large crowd armed with swords and clubs this companion of Jesus put himself forward and was prepared to protect Jesus with his own life. But, Jesus does not join in the fight. Instead he helps the enemy and miraculously heals the injured man. Can you imagine how that brave friend of Jesus must have felt when Jesus started healing the enemy? What was the point of trying to act like a bodyguard and look after Jesus when he was actively helping the other side? The response of Jesus must have appeared totally ungrateful, especially when in front of the angry crowd he then admonishes his own people telling them to put their swords away 'for all who draw the sword will die by the sword.'

Jesus believes that he can simply ask the Father and he will at once have at his disposal more than twelve legions of angels. However, the reason why Jesus will not defend himself is because he has to be obedient to scripture and give his life on the cross. Far from allowing himself to have bodyguards, Jesus must deliberately put himself in harms way.

Much of what Jesus did in the events leading up to the crucifixion could have been interpreted as weakness. He did not argue forcefully in his own defence when faced by his accusers, he did not summon his supporters to take up arms and fight back against those who wanted him dead. Given the unwillingness of Jesus to defend himself, how could his followers possibly stand up and protect him, no wonder they all ran away. Jesus was an impossible person to look after.

So in the passage today we see Jesus being warned about Herod. At that time some Pharisees came to Jesus and said to him, "Leave this place and go somewhere else. Herod wants to kill you."

We need to think twice about this passage, for sometimes we think that all the Pharisees wanted Jesus dead. Not all of the Pharisees bore such hatred towards Jesus. Some like Gamaliel in Acts Chapter 5 were perfectly prepared to watch and see whether this new movement turned out to be from God. So today we read in Luke that some of these Pharisees actually warned Jesus about danger from Herod.

Jesus is unconcerned about warnings of danger and totally unafraid of Herod. This is because Jesus has a date with his own death and he has the rendezvous planned. He knows where and when his death will come and it will be in Jerusalem and not at the hands of Herod. Throughout the Easter story we see Jesus choreograph the events that will lead to his death on the cross. He is not the unwitting victim, he arranges the action.

The passage from Luke today is a clear expression of exactly what Jesus thought his death was all about. Jesus has no need of a bodyguard to protect him, instead his death would offer protection to others. Like the hen with her chicks he will take up the challenge of the cross and lay down his life in Jerusalem. There is an important theological point here: that Jesus went to the cross voluntarily. This passage seems to emphasize the intention of Jesus, the cross will not come because Jesus is trapped in the Garden and his followers let him down.

Jesus will not fight back, but this is not because he is a coward, rather because he knows that he must offer his own life for the life of others. Like a hen which will put out its wings to protect chicks, and ultimately give of its own life first, so Jesus shows a willingness to pay the greatest price.

So Jesus calls us all to the shelter of his protecting wings. As he stretches wide his arms on the cross, he calls you and me to come to him for safety. He calls us place our trust in him, irrespective of how great are our fears, the hurts, troubles or pains which we feel. We can have confidence to believe that his outstretched arms are strong enough, his wings sufficiently broad to keep us safe. It is only in the safe shadow of his wings that we are saved. *Charles Royden*

Meditation.

God makes big promises to Abram, soon to be called Abraham, and Abram understandably asks, "How am I to know that I shall possess it?" Now surely this is one of the big questions which we all ask of God. How can we know that God is with us and will continue to sustain us as we journey on? Lent is a time for us to open our lives and obtain awareness—awareness of the presence of God. We may see God in those around us, in our prayer, in our action, in people who are different from ourselves and in people who are the same, in all things. Possibly the best way to judge whether Lent has been profitable is ask whether it has helped us to see God better and so amend our lives. Reflection leading to action. How is your Lenten observance helping you to see well? To be more aware of the presence of God in the world? To be better able to see and understand those who are different from yourself? To see the poor and needy of the world and work to make a difference, to see the sins of which we are ashamed and leave them at the cross.

Prayers for Sunday and the Week Ahead

God of the day and of the night, in me there is darkness, but with you there is light. I am alone, but you will not leave me. I am weak, but you will come to my help. I am restless, but you are my peace. I am in haste, but you are the God of infinite patience. I am confused and lost, but you are eternal wisdom and you direct my path; now and for ever. Amen

Dietrich Bonhoeffer, 1906-1945

We adore thee, O Christ, and we bless thee, because of thy Holy Cross thou hast redeemed the world. O Saviour of the world: who by thy cross and precious Blood hast redeemed us, save us and help us, we humbly beseech thee, O Lord. *Sarum Rite*

News, Views and Information

Hedge to be laid. The remaining tall hedge at St Mark's will be reduced to three feet in the next few weeks. It is drastic but will regenerate the hedge and make it more manageable. Whilst it will be lower, it should make the hedge less easy to get through. We have had to remove all barbed wire at the instruction of our insurance company, which makes the premises vulnerable to unauthorised access from the playground. Don't be too shocked when you see it!

Margaret and Claire Peck are diving into Robinson Pool towards the end of March to put their strokes to good use. They are taking part in the Butlins Swimathon in order to help raise funds for Macmillan Cancer Relief and the Swimathon Foundation. If you would like to sponsor them please telephone Margaret (267567) or Claire (358063). Thank you Margaret and Claire

Beetle Drive at St Mark's Church, Calder Rise. Monday 8 March. 6—7.30 pm with the Brownies & 7.30—9.00 pm with the Guides. Tickets Adult £2, Child £1, Family £5 (2 adults & 2 children) Includes nibbles, soft drinks available. In aid of Keech Cottage Children's Hospice.

Putnoe Ramblers will be meeting for a walk on Flitwick Moor on Sunday 14th March at 2.30pm. The walk will now be led by Margaret and Eddy Peck. T: 267567

Wanted .. Mature Christian lady to help & advise a local young mum on housekeeping. Fee negotiable. All enquiries to Putnoe Heights Church Office. (365630) in the first instance.

Help Needed for Good Friday Storybox. A special Good Friday event from 12.30 –1.45. There will be a story, music & Easter activities. Offers of help with party lunch to Margaret Peck please ! Offers of help to Joan Crossley, Liz Spavins & Sam Ware (Junior Church).

Putnoe Heights are seeking a Centre Manager for the busy Church Community Centre, 20 hours per week @ £5 per hour. Applications in writing to the Minister at Putnoe Heights Church by 8th March.

Brickhill Urban Community Council The last meeting of the UCC before becoming a Parish Council, takes place on Wednesday 10 March 7.30pm at Brickhill Community Centre. Come to see what is happening to buses in Westrope Way, which community groups are allocated grants etc.

Thank you to everyone who supported the Blue Peter Bring and Buy Sale. An amazing £100 was

raised. Rachel Nash and Helen Morse.

British Red Cross Open Gardens. There are more gardens open this year in this area. For details please refer to the booklet which can be found on the notice board. If you wish to help with these events contact Jo Whitney 361060.

St Mark's Storybox. I am starting to think about the rota for next term. If anyone who is not yet a volunteer & would like to help, would like to drop me a note, & if anyone has any dates that they know they will not be available, please let me know. Joan

Partnership Singers A reminder to all members, past and present, that rehearsals for Easter Services start on Friday 12 March (as arranged in December!). 7.30pm at St. Mark's

Coffee Time Cards New stocks of Mother's Day cards and Ester cards are on sale from today. Usual reasonable prices. Commissions still taken.

Mima Noble would like to thank everyone for the cards and flowers and good wishes. She has had her operation and is feeling very much better.

Craft Fair on Saturday 13th March, Bedford Lions Club, in Putnoe Heights Church Hall from 10.00am - 1.00pm. Admission 30p. Large variety of stalls and all proceeds from this event will go to local Lions Club Charities. Stallholders £5.00 in advance, £7.50 on the day.

Cake Stall at St. Mark's 14 March. Alex Royden, Hannah Farthing and Kate Crossley will be running a cake stall in aid of agricultural equipment for Africa. Donations of cakes, biscuits, buns etc will be gratefully received.

Bedford Town Concert Band & Progress Brass Friday 26 March, 8.00pm "BRASS GOES POP" Tickets £5 Concessions £3 from Roger Nichols 357268 or available at the door.

MHA I have available from Sutton's catalogues for Spring and Summer plants and seeds. If interested please contact me. 20% of the value of each order is passed to The Methodist Homes. This is a great way to raise funds for this worthwhile charity and to make your garden beautiful. Thank you Grace Foster 215053

Supper & Spring Lecture. "Hitch-Hiking around the Universe" Saturday 27th March 7pm at Sharnbrook Methodist Church. Tickets £7—available from Eileen Smith 82241.

Partnership Lent Course 2004 7.30pm at Putnoe Heights Church

Great Hymn Writers

This year our Lent Course will be looking at the lives and theology of four great hymn writers.

Our Ministers will speak about a separate hymn writer each week in Lent. This would be an excellent event to bring along a friend or somebody who does not come to church.

8 March Herbert Joan Crossley
15 March Keeble Sam Cappleman
22 March Pratt Green Charles Royden
29 March Wesley Neil Bramble Chapman

Information about our Worship

Welcome to our churches, it is always our pleasure to welcome visitors.

Refreshments Please do feel welcome to stay behind after church for coffee which will be served in the church

Sunday School takes place during morning service a Crèche is available at the back of the church, please feel able to walk in and out during the service.

Parents Please remember that colouring boards and crayons are available for children during the service.

Hard of hearing? Please note that a hearing aid loop is fitted at our churches. Please switch to the 'T' setting.

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

Daniel Herbert Tull
Lionel Philip Clarke
Peter Carter
Florence Ada Bleakley

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

News An internet church is launched this week as part of Oxford diocese's Cutting Edge programme of new expressions of church. The "i-church" Christian community will be organised through a website, and led by a lay or ordained "web pastor". It will reflect a commitment to prayer, study and social action.

Visitors to the site will also be able to use its spiritual, worship and information resources.

The Revd Richard Thomas, its originator, said that research had identified a group of people who were not interested in membership of a church, but wanted to resource their own spiritual journey from the internet. "If the Church of England is serious about serving all people within the community, this is no longer just a geographical thing," he said on Monday. "People may want some kind of religious community, but not the parish. There's a number of parishioners who travel a great deal and aren't able to attend church regularly, yet want to maintain some kind of link or resource. It's also for those who don't feel entirely satisfied that their church is giving them what they need, and want some added value." Membership is open to anyone in the diocese willing to make a commitment to the community. There will be online daily worship and a reading for the day, along with prayer requests from community members, and information on Christian events around the country.

There will be opportunities, but no obligation, to meet. "This is all about making connections in new ways. The most exciting thing will be seeing what new expressions of Christian witness develop," said Mr Thomas. "We've got no idea whether this will work — it's the first time that anybody has tried to do it as part of the formal structure of a diocese." Advertisement are being placed for a web pastor who could demonstrate the ability to work in uncharted waters and carry out what was, in effect, "a new kind of church plant."

We publish the banns and pray for the marriage of Michael John Puttock and Penelope Scott of the parish of St Andrew's Bedford on the electoral roll of this parish. (7,14,21)

The following funerals have been arranged
The funeral of Kathleen Dawes will take place on Thursday 11 March at 11.30am