



Methodist  
Church

# Partnership News

8 May 2005

## Ascension 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 May**

#### 8.30 Service of Holy Communion

Held at both churches

#### 9.30am St Mark's Church - Morning Worship

Preacher - The Revd Brian Webb

Leadership Team - Mrs Delia Shephard

Intercessions - Mr Ian Farthing

#### 11.00am Putnoe Heights - Morning Worship

Preacher - The Revd Brian Webb

Leadership Team - Mr Peter Barker

Intercessions - Mrs Claire Peck

**15 May - Pentecost**

#### 8.30 Service of Holy Communion

Held at both churches

#### 9.30am St Mark's Church - Holy Communion

Preacher - The Rev Dr Sam Cappleman

Leadership Team - Mrs Janet Day

Intercessions - Mr John Tatman

#### 11.00am Putnoe Heights - Holy Communion

Preacher - The Rev Dr Sam Cappleman

Leadership Team - Mr Alan Bayliss

Intercessions - Mrs Sylvia Cohen

### Thank You

The flowers at Putnoe Heights Church this week have been given by Megan Wiles in memory of her sister, Valorie.

The flowers at St Mark's Church this week have been given by Peter Sachro in memory of his friend Margaret Jean Gwynne

We are always grateful for any donations for flowers perhaps to celebrate an anniversary or in memory of a loved one. Please contact Miss Marion Prior 303254 (St. Mark's) or Miss Jennie Cooper 404950 (Putnoe Heights).

### Prayer for Sunday

Lord of Hosts, purify our hearts  
that the King of Glory may come in,  
even your Son, Jesus our Redeemer;  
for he is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, for ever and ever.

Amen

*Methodist Worship*

### 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 -07917 356062 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

Partnership News is now available each week on the  
Partnership Website - [www.ThisisChurch.com](http://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 putnoe@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 office@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 Story box** 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 Fulham 406045

**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 the next one 16 May Moorfields & Sight Concern 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.

**2.00pm Library Walk W.I.** at Putnoe Heights meets monthly. Next meeting May 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 May 10th Revd Jim Gorringe. Contact Mrs Betty Wyatt 350188.

**2.15pm Putnoe Heights Men's Fellowship.** Next meeting 10 May Rev.J.Gorringe 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 May 10 Charity Evening-Patchwork 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 . 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 11 May 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 . Contact Sylvia Woods 365095

**7pm Putnoe Guild** meets monthly at Putnoe Heights. 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 quiet room. 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 Story box** 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 Story box 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. 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

**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

**6.00pm TNT (The Nearly Teens)** meet fortnightly at Putnoe Heights for various fun activities. Contact Putnoe Office 365630

## Church Calendar

### Church Diary Dates

**Annual Congregational Meeting** today at 3.00pm St Mark's 4.00pm Putnoe  
**Partnership Council** 21 June  
**St Mark's Church Council** 15 June, 12 October  
**Circuit Men's Fellowship Lunch** on the **St Mark's Leadership Team**  
**Deanery Synod**  
**Putnoe Heights Leadership Team** July 21

### St Mark's Church Management Meeting

24 May, 11 July, 12 September, 2 November. All meetings to start 7.00pm

### Putnoe Heights Management

### Putnoe Church Council

13 June 2005, 10 Oct 2005

**Pastoral Group Meeting** – 19 September 2.00pm

**Church yard Committee** -

**Please advise St Mark's Church Office of the dates of your meetings.** Calendar dates appear also on our church website [www.ThisChurch.com](http://www.ThisChurch.com).

# Bible Notes - Ascension Sunday

## Verse of Scripture Ephesians Chapter 1:20

He raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms, far above all rule and authority, power and dominion, and every title that can be given, not only in the present age but also in the one to come.

## A Collect Prayer - Before we read we pray

O God the King of glory, you have exalted your only Son Jesus Christ with great triumph to your kingdom in heaven: we beseech you, leave us not comfortless, but send your Holy Spirit to strengthen us and exalt us to the place where our Saviour Christ is gone before, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen

## First Reading - Acts 1: 1-14

In my former book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus began to do and to teach until the day he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles he had chosen. After his suffering, he showed himself to these men and gave many convincing proofs that he was alive. He appeared to them over a period of forty days and spoke about the kingdom of God. On one occasion, while he was eating with them, he gave them this command: "Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my Father promised, which you have heard me speak about. For John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit." So when they met together, they asked him, "Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?" He said to them: "It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." After he said this, he was taken up before their very eyes, and a cloud hid him from their sight. They were looking intently up into the sky as he was going, when suddenly two men dressed in white stood beside them. "Men of Galilee," they said, "why do you stand here looking into the sky? This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven." Then they returned to Jerusalem from the hill called the Mount of Olives, a Sabbath day's walk from the city. When they arrived, they went upstairs to the room where they were staying. Those present were Peter, John, James and Andrew; Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew; James son of Alphaeus and Simon the Zealot, and Judas son of James. They all joined together constantly in prayer, along with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with his brothers. (This is the Word of the Lord - **Thanks be to God**)

## Second Reading - 1 Peter 4:12-14 & 5:6-11

Dear friends, do not be surprised at the painful trial you are suffering, as though something strange were happening to you. But rejoice that you participate in the sufferings of Christ, so that you may be overjoyed when his glory is revealed. If you are insulted because of the name of Christ, you are blessed, for the Spirit of glory and of God rests on you. Humble yourselves, therefore, under God's mighty hand, that he may lift you up in due time. Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you. Be self-controlled and alert. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. Resist him, standing firm in the faith, because you know that your brothers throughout the world are undergoing the same kind of sufferings. And the God of all grace, who called you to his eternal glory in Christ, after you have suffered a little while, will himself restore you and make you strong, firm and steadfast. To him be the power for ever and ever. Amen. (This is the Word of the Lord - **Thanks be to God**)

## Third Reading - Mark 16:9-20

When Jesus rose early on the first day of the week, he appeared first to Mary Magdalene, out of



While he was blessing them, he withdrew from them and was carried up into heaven.  
Luke 24.51

*Ascension of Christ, an oil on wood, by Garofalo, 1515, Galleria Nazionale d'Arte Antica, Rome.*

whom he had driven seven demons. She went and told those who had been with him and who were mourning and weeping. When they heard that Jesus was alive and that she had seen him, they did not believe it. Afterward Jesus appeared in a different form to two of them while they were walking in the country. These returned and reported it to the rest; but they did not believe them either. Later Jesus appeared to the Eleven as they were eating; he rebuked them for their lack of faith and their stubborn refusal to believe those who had seen him after he had risen. He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the good news to all creation. Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned. And these signs will accompany those who believe: In my name they will drive out demons; they will speak in new tongues; they will pick up snakes with their hands; and when they drink deadly poison, it will not hurt them at all; they will place their hands on sick people, and they will get well." After the Lord Jesus had spoken to them, he was taken up into heaven and he sat at the right hand of God. Then the disciples went out and preached everywhere, and the Lord worked with them and confirmed his word by the signs that accompanied it. (This is the Word of the Lord - **Thanks be to God**)

### Post Communion Prayer

Eternal God, giver of love and power, your Son Jesus Christ has sent us into all the world to preach the gospel of his kingdom: confirm us in this mission, and help us to live the good news we proclaim; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

### Hymns (Please distribute Hymns and Psalms)

1. Rejoice the Lord is King 243 Gopsal
2. Praise Him 506
3. The Saviour when to heaven 211 Gonfalon Royal
4. Hail the day that sees him rise 197 Gwalchmai
5. Mine eyes have seen 242 Battle Hymn



Bronze sculpture of Romulus and Remus. The she-wolf is an Etruscan work, made around 500 B.C. the two infants were added by a Renaissance artist, 2,000 years later.

### Commentary

*'After he said this, he was taken up before their very eyes, and a cloud hid him from their sight.'* Acts 1

We know that Jesus rose from the dead and appeared to his disciples. But these resurrection appearances did not go on indefinitely. Luke tells us that after forty days of teaching the disciples, Jesus was taken up (ascended) to heaven. The final meeting with the disciples took place on the Mount of Olives, outside Jerusalem. But what exactly happened ?

Wandering around a museum in Rome recently, one of the most interesting pieces I saw was the one shown opposite. It relates to the legend of Romulus and Remus, twin sons of Rhea Silvia and the god Mars. According to ancient legend, Rome was founded in 753 B.C. by these twins. They were, together with their mother, cast into the Tiber, but the god

Tiberinus saved Rhea Silvia from drowning, and the brothers were miraculously rescued by a she-wolf sent by Mars. The wolf reared the twins together with her cubs underneath a fig tree, then after a few years they were found by the shepherd Faustulus, who took the brothers home and gave them to his wife Acca Larentia to raise. The Roman historian Dionysius wrote about Rhea Silvia (Ilia) being visited by a god, who tells her she will bear the twins Romulus and Remus. The god is then "hidden by a cloud and taken from the earth and borne upwards through the air".

In the Hellenistic world, such ascent of a king, prophet, hero or holy man to the heavens, the place of the gods was a well known motif. It signified divinity. Hence Heracles was deified through ascent into heaven and Ganymede became immortal when Zeus lifted him into heaven to serve as cupbearer to the gods. It was also the Greek Philosophy of Plato which taught that human souls were immortal and ascended to the heavens.

The point which I am making is that it was once very normal and understandable for people to think of a

flat world with heaven above the clouds, to which people ascended. Hence over time we have thought of Jesus as taken up to heaven through the clouds and that in this solid area above there was a physical throne upon which Jesus would sit. This was all thought before we had the opportunity to send spacecraft and satellites into space to reveal a huge universe bigger than any of us can fully appreciate. We now know that if Jesus embarked upon a physical journey through the clouds to a place called heaven, then it would have been a very long journey indeed. Today some might prefer to think of the Ascension as a metaphor. Nowadays we do not regard heaven as a place beyond the sky, we think of heaven as somewhere where God is where we will be forever. Jesus need not have floated up like Mary Poppins but could have been taken from the disciples in a much more ordinary way. Jesus going on up the mountain into the cloud is perhaps the most natural way for him to leave the disciples. However, if Jesus wanted to reassure his disciples that he was returning to glory with God, then the Ascension would need to make it clear that he was 'going up.' In the Old Testament when God met with people, a cloud often represented his presence and glory. The cloud may or may not have been a supernatural, nevertheless it was most surely a cloud with deep symbolic significance.

For the disciples and for us the meaning is clear, Jesus has gone before us. He has left this world and is exalted to the place from which his reign will be acknowledged as he is Lord of all. This separation of Christ from his followers was the opportunity for the Holy Spirit to be given to the disciples to enable them to have God's presence with them intimately, wherever they might be. The disciples lost the physical presence of Jesus, but they gained the spiritual presence of Jesus in a very real way. This we celebrate next week at Pentecost. *Charles Royden*

### **Meditation.**

Jesus tells the disciples that they must not leave Jerusalem. They must wait for the transforming gift of the Holy Spirit. Without the Spirit the church must stay at home and wait, because it is just not worthwhile bothering. With the Holy Spirit things will be remarkable, a total change.

Our Church today is called to proclaim the good news of forgiveness and reconciliation, and the hope of newness that is given voice in the resurrection itself. It is a grand vision of being God's people, God's agents of transformation in the world. The mission of the church here is nothing less than to go into the world as God's people, and proclaim a subversive, transforming message about a suffering God who calls anyone without discrimination to respond.

There is a clear realisation from the very beginning of Luke's Gospel, that we simply cannot do what God has called us to do on any level without God's help. That enabling power for which they are waiting is not something they can generate or make happen by their own efforts. It is a gift of God, in his own time and in his own way. Perhaps this Ascension Sunday, as we observe the return of Jesus to the Father we can remember Luke tells us that the church cannot be the church without the power of the Holy Spirit enabling Jesus' followers to carry out their task as witnesses. Luke is clear that the church is the church only when it has waited until it has been clothed with power from on high.

**Bishops?** The Methodist Church is to discuss the possibility that there could be bishops within seven years. Clearly it is important that this issue is resolved as the Methodist and Anglican churches move closer together. There are difficult questions, would Methodist bishops, men and women, be presbyters and bishops for life or would they revert to ordinary ministry after a time of service? Suggestions have been made that those who become bishops should include President of the Methodist Conference, past Presidents, district chairs, the general secretary, selected superintendents or other presbyters. The Reverend Kenneth Howcroft, Assistant Secretary of the Conference, said that the "historical gift" of episcopacy could then be received between 2010 and 2012, to coincide with the implementation of the covenant with the Church of England.

### **Prayers for Sunday and the Week Ahead**

O Almighty God, who by thy holy apostle hast taught us to set our affection on things above: grant us so to labour in this life as ever to be mindful of our citizenship in those heavenly places whither our saviour Christ is gone before. Book of Common Prayer South Africa

You are not only risen and alive, you are Lord.

This is your ascension, your ascendancy over the whole universe.

You stand over and above all that is best in life as its source.

You stand above all that is worst as ultimate victor.

You stand above all powers and authorities as judge.

You stand above all failure and weakness and sin as forgiveness and love.

You alone are worthy of total allegiance, total commitment.

You are Lord 'My Lord and my God' *Rex Chapman*

# News, Views and Information

**Bedford Care** This local charity celebrates its 25th anniversary this year. Bedford Care is run by Christians from many churches in the town and its function is to provide transport, help with shopping, small domestic repairs or other simple tasks for local people. The client rings a duty officer, who works from home, and they arrange for a volunteer to carry out the task in return for a donation. In this way, countless local people receive valuable help and the love of God is shown in practical ways.

The charity is financially sound, but its continued existence is seriously threatened for two reasons; the Executive Committee has lost 3 members in recent months, one through death and two through ill health and there is also a shortage of people able to act as duty officers, generally for one day per month. If new committee members and duty officers can not be found, Bedford Care can not continue.

Please consider whether you might be able to help in any way. You can find out more by ringing the Bedford Care number, 215500, or you would be welcome at the Annual General Meeting at 7.30pm on 25th May at Holy Cross Church, Barkers Lane.

**Saints & Warthogs.** Anyone interested in playing cricket? The new season is fast looming and Mike Cooper is the person to see if you would like to join their team. Tel:306751 -mikecoops@tiscali.co.uk.

**Storybox plus** We are after your potential junk please-foil milk bottle tops; butter and margarine tubs with lids; kitchen roll inners. Please leave at Putnoe Church office or give to Elizabeth Spavins.

**Storybox plus** would be grateful if anyone could donate wire coat hangers for our next project. Please can you leave them in our junk collection box, which is under the table in the entrance hall at Putnoe Heights. Thanks Liz."

**Junior church** The "help" rota is now on the notice board. Please sign up if you would like to join us one Sunday. Our 10+ group will be in the small hall led by Joan, Neil and other "Guest Leaders" and the younger ones will be in the large hall with Liz Spavins, John Barrow and Holly Webber.

**Tuesday Club Charity Concert by Patchwork** in aid of the Primrose Fund, at Putnoe Heights Church on Tuesday 10 May at 7.30pm. Music, singing & readings. £6 at the door, includes refreshments & raffle ticket.

**Donations of flowers.** The new chart is on the St.Mark's foyer notice board, with lots of spaces from now to November. Please sign up if you wish to donate money for flowers on a special date. Talk to Marion so she can put it into her diary and liaise with

the flower arrangers and make an appropriate entry into the notices.

**More volunteers** needed for the coffee rota at Putnoe Heights. If you would like to help, please ring Margaret Massey on 327219 or speak to me at Church. It's not complicated and the more people on the rota, the less frequent the duty.

**Sunflower Competition** Remember to bring your planted seed to the Fun Run to see whose flower has grown the best.

**TNT** meets tonight 6pm-7.30pm at Putnoe Heights Church. We will be cooking, so bring an apron.

**Network** Spring District Day Monday 6th June at Chesham Methodist Church. The theme "Building Bridges" will be led by Connexional President, Elaine Turner. A coach leaves from Priory Methodist Church at 8.30am, the cost is £10. To book a place please contact Elaine MacKirdy tel: 360271 as soon as possible and no later than 27th May.

**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, 4pm. We are in need of prizes to offer our heroic participants. Sponsorship and entry forms are now available in St Mark's church office.

**Christian Aid Week 15 - 21 May.** Collectors urgently needed! If you can do one or more roads, by yourself or with a friend, Please sign up on the list in the Welcome Area at Putnoe Heights, and collect your envelopes in readiness for delivery on Sunday 15th May. Read all about it in May Seeround. *Beryl Wiggington 266780*

Collectors also needed for St Mark's. I would be grateful if you could help by delivering and collecting envelopes in your road or a road near you. Many hands make light work. Please sign up on list in Foyer. Thank you Wendy

**Spring Fair** at Priory Methodist Church on Saturday 21 May from 10.00am.—2.00 pm Craft stalls, Plants, Books, Raffle, Side shows, Bouncy Castle, Home Produce & Lunches & Snacks. Admission 50p (children Free)

**Emmaus** would be grateful for donations of any fishing gear as they are to start fishing in their pond. Please bring to St Mark's Church Office.

**Brickhill Annual Parish Meeting** Thursday 12th May, 7.30 pm at St Mark's. There will be presentations from local community groups, a report on the work of the Parish Council and an informal presentation from B:DAT about issues around drug and alcohol use in the community. All are welcome. More information available from the Parish Clerk. Delia Shephard 328365

**County Council Elections** Our congratulations to the successful Bedfordshire County Council candidates Peter Hand (Brickhill) and Rosemary Bootiman (Putnoe).

The results were as follows.

**Brickhill:** Brian Anderson (Labour) 729, Peter Hand (Conservative) 2,029, Charles Royden (Liberal Democrat) 1,895

**Putnoe::** Mark Adkins (UHIP) 315, Rosemary Bootiman (Liberal Democrat) 1,989, Ralph Hall (Conservative) 1,647, Mohammad Yasin (Labour) 715.

The Bedfordshire County Council is now made up as follows, Conservative 36, Labour 7, Liberal Democrat 9

**Today. Annual Congregational Meeting Nomination Forms for Church Council** are available this morning. Please do nominate/ask to be nominated this morning

**Please note**—When sending notices for inclusion in Partnership News by fax or email, please make clear if your notice only applies to one church.

### 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.

**William Sharpe**

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



## 2005 Annual Congregational Meeting

### Agenda

To take place at St. Mark's 2.30pm  
& Putnoe Heights 4.00pm

### Opening prayers

**Preliminary** Appointment of minute secretary to the Annual Congregational Meeting.

### Record of number of persons present

(Please note that no record is required of names of those present or apologies from the congregation for absence)

### Giving Thanks

Expressions of thanks to any leaving office

### Elections to Office

Election of Church Leadership Team  
Election of Deanery Synod representative  
Election of Church Council representatives

### Presentations

Presentation of Terrier and Inventory  
Presentation of current church policy documents  
Presentation of August church accounts  
Presentation of membership lists (Elec roll etc.)  
Presentation of review

### Closing Prayers

Please note that there will not be 'any other business.' As usual, matters concerning the life of the church should be referred to members of the Church Leadership Team for their attention, to be brought subsequently to Church Council .

### Publication of the banns of Marriage

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

**Duncan Marjoribanks and Nina Jane Reynolds**

This is for the third time of asking.

**Benjamin Edward Watton and Nicola Ann Harley**

This is for the third time of asking

### Forthcoming Funerals to be conducted by our ministers

**The funeral of Alan Nicholls** will take place at Bedford Crematorium this week (Neil Bramble Chapman)

**The funeral of Mona Margery Lovell** will take place at St Mark's Chapel at 3.30pm on Tuesday 10th May