

Partnership News

9 May 2004

5 Sunday of Easter

Methodist
Church

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

Church of
England

Church Services Today

8.30am Service of Holy Communion

Held at both churches

9.30am St Mark's Church Morning Worship
Preacher – The Reverend Dr Sam Cappleman
Leadership Team - Mrs Iris Perry

Intercessions – Mr John Stubbs

11.00am Putnoe Heights Morning Worship
Preacher – The Reverend Dr Sam Cappleman
Leadership Team - Mrs Sue Allen
Intercessions - Mr Alan Bayliss

Annual Congregational Meetings today .
St Mark's 2.30pm Putnoe Heights Church 4.00pm

Sunday May 16th

8.30am Service of Holy Communion

Held at both churches

9.30am St Mark's Church - Holy Communion
Preacher – The Reverend Charles Royden
Leadership Team - Mr Ian Farthing

Intercessions – Mr John Tatman

11.00am Putnoe Heights - Holy Communion
Preacher – The Reverend Charles Royden
Leadership Team - Mr Alan Bayliss
Intercessions - Mr Peter Bailey

Thank You

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

The flowers in the Chapel at St Mark's are in memory of Trudy's brother Andrew with love from his family

The flowers at Putnoe Heights Church this week have been given by Megan Wiles in memory of her sister Valorie on the occasion of her birthday on the 9 May.

Prayer for Sunday

Keep me safe in your arms, O Lord, for then I have nothing to fear. Let me rely on you in all things and deliver me from all that imperils my salvation. Guard me in the hour of danger and in the hour of success. Grant that I may always believe in you, love you and serve you, and bring me at your bidding into the presence of your glory; through Christ our Lord. Amen
John Henry Newman, 1801-1890

Contact Details

The Reverend Dr. Sam Cappleman

107 Dover Crescent, Bedford MK41 8QR
266952 Fax- 402624 NSM@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 Piecyk

St Mark's Flat - 315455

Partnership Website - www.ThisisChurch.com

Partnership Pastoral Support Team Co-Ordinator & Churchyards Administrator

Mrs Mary Stubbs 406784 Mary@Thisischurch.com

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

Putnoe Heights Church Centre

Open 9am - 1.00pm Monday & Friday

9am - 4pm Tuesday/Wednesday & Thursday

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

Centre Manager Mr Barry Snelson 365630

Leadership Team - 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 - 5pm)

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

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Regular Weekly Activities - A Guide To Our Churches

Monday

- 9.30 - 12.00 pm Pre-school** (See website for more details) Mrs Janet Smith 326685 (Putnoe Heights) or Mrs. Helen Harpin **312634** (St. Mark's).
- 10.00 am Day Care Centre** at St. Mark's Church for those with Learning Difficulties.
- 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 May Moorfields & Sight Concern 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 - 4 May Rev.d Neil Bramble Chapman Contact Mrs Betty Wyatt 350188
- 2.15pm Putnoe Heights Men's Fellowship.** Next meeting 18 May Mr N Kinselly, Wood Carving. 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 11 May Charity evening for Alzheimer's by Kempston Musical Soc. Contact Mrs C Davies 219130
- 8.00pm Tuesday Housegroup** Next Meeting May at 80 Pipit Rise, when the session three about James will be followed Contact Alison 403551 or Brian 305347.
- 8.30-9.30pm St. Mark's - Qi Gong** (Self help healing) group) - Contact Mr F Steele 355937

Wednesday

- 10.00 am Childminding Support Group** at Putnoe Heights. Mrs S Longman 313949
- 10.00 am Day Care Centre** Putnoe Height Church for those with Learning Difficulties.
- 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 12 May Contact St. Mark's 342613
- 1.30 - 4.00pm. Bridge Club for the Retired** - Meets weekly at St. Mark's. Mrs Truss Boyce 781133
- 4.15 - 5.45pm Kumon Maths** at Putnoe Heights Contact Ms R Mistry 01908 217555
- 6. - 7.00pm Self Defence at Putnoe** Contact Mr James 07711 687449
- 6.00 -7.30 pm Brownies** at St Mark's Contact Mrs Carol Warden 219731
- 7.00pm St. Mark's Church** Bunyan Bridge. Contact Brian Sallows 407725
- 7-10pm Putnoe Guild** - Putnoe Heights 3rd Wednesday each month. Contact Mrs Dallas 212609
- 7.45 - 8.45pm Kick Boxing** Junior classes St. Mark's. Mr James 07711687449 or 07810234890
- 7.45pm Badminton Club** at Putnoe Heights - all welcome. Contact Ken Marriott 214867

Thursday

- 9.30am Thursday Prayer Group** at Putnoe Heights in the side chapel. Sylvia Cohen 343424 *Request for prayer can be written in the prayer diary on the information table.*
- 10.30am - 12.00am Brickhill Clinic** at St Mark's with **Fledglings 2.00pm—3.00pm** Contact 267444
- 10.00am - 11.30am Yoga** at Putnoe Heights Contact 244970

12 - 1.00 pm Storybox at St Mark's Church. Service for parents, carers & children under 5. Sandwich lunch, Bible Stories, Children's activities, songs & prayers, all in one hour from 12-1pm.

1.30 - 3.00 pm St. Mark's Church Toddler Group. Contact Debbie Coppenhall 356828.

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

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

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

6.15pm Brownies at Putnoe Mrs S Lewis 300198

7.30 - 9.30pm Club 2000 Putnoe 2nd Thursday of the month. Contact Mrs Moreton 771261

6.15 - 7.30pm Bedford Junior Chess Club. St. Mark's Contact Mr & Mrs Pike 823795

7.30pm - 11.00pm Bedford Senior Chess Club at St Mark's Contact Mr Hatton 824988

7.30 - 9.30pm Embroiderer's Guild St Mark's- 3rd Thursday month. Contact Mrs K Sage 771525

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

8.00 - 10pm Bedford Writers Circle meets at St

Mark's Church 3rd Thursday each month. Contact Mr John Broadhouse 740271

Friday

10.00 am Day Care Centre at St. Mark's Church

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

Annual Congregational Meetings Today 9 May

3.00pm at St Mark's and 4.00pm at Putnoe
Please bring Partnership News with you as the agenda is printed on page 7.

Agendas are available this morning.

Forthcoming meetings. Please check!

Partnership Council 8 June

Putnoe Centre Management

7 Jun, 26 Jul,

St Mark's Church Council

Wednesday 16 June in the Chapel

Churchyards Committee

Next meeting 7 June at 10.00am

St Mark's Leadership Team

Wednesday 26 May, Wednesday 8 September

Putnoe Church Council Monday 14 June

St Mark's Chairs We are very grateful for the people who help with the chairs after the Sunday Service however we would welcome more volunteers, please stack chairs in threes. Thank you.

Next Meeting of the Pastoral Group Wednesday

15 September at 2.30pm At this meeting we will continue with the bereavement training video. Would team members please advise Mary Stubbs if you are not able to make this meeting.

British Red Cross Open Gardens. There are more

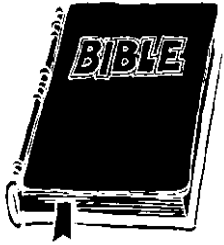
gardens open this year in this area. For details please refer to the booklet which can be found on the notice board. If you wish to help with these events contact Jo Whitney 36106

Coffee Time Cards New stocks as usual, reasonable prices. Commissions taken. Contact Marion.

Ramblers Details of the Ramblers week-end away in September are available....

Fun Run & Sponsored Walk 5KM & 3KM. on Sunday 13 June .in Mowsbury Park, 2.30pm start. Prize giving at St Mark's at 4pm. BBQ, Bouncey Castle, Balloon Race. Entry forms available from St. Mark's Church. Please note once you have completed your application form you will be given a pack of information - including the sponsorship form. If you don't feel like walking we need helpers to steward , with catering and generally back at base.

Putnoe Ramblers Walk Sunday 23 May starting at 2.30pm Houghton Conwuest and Haynes West End. A walk of about 4.5miles. Parking at Village Hall, Houghton Conquest. Details from Jenny & Barry. Tel 344417



Bible Notes Easter 5 (Year C, White)

Opening Verse of Scripture Psalm 148 v 7, 11 - 12

Praise the Lord from the earth. Kings of the earth and all nations, you princes and all rulers on earth, young men and maidens, old men and children. Let them praise the name of the Lord.

Collect Prayer for the Day -

Loving and eternal God, through the resurrection of your Son, help us to face the future with courage and assurance, knowing that nothing in life or death can ever part us from your love for us in Jesus Christ our Saviour; who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen

First Bible Reading Acts 11 v 1 – 18

The apostles and the brothers throughout Judea heard that the Gentiles also had received the word of God. So when Peter went up to Jerusalem, the circumcised believers criticised him and said, 'You went into the house of uncircumcised men and ate with them. Peter began and explained everything to them precisely as it had happened: I was in the city of Joppa praying, and in a trance I saw a vision. I saw something like a large sheet being let down from heaven by its four corners, and it came down to where I was. I looked into it and saw four-footed animals of the earth, wild beasts, reptiles, and birds of the air. Then I heard a voice telling me, 'Get up, Peter. Kill and eat.' I replied, 'Surely not, Lord! Nothing impure or unclean has ever entered my mouth.' The voice spoke from heaven a second time, 'Do not call anything impure that God has made clean.' This happened three times, and then it was pulled up to heaven again. Right then three men who had been sent to me from Caesarea stopped at the house where I was staying. The Spirit told me to have no hesitation about going with them. These six brothers also went with me, and we entered the man's house. He told us how he had seen an angel appear in his house and say, 'Send to Joppa for Simon who is called Peter. He will bring you a message through which you and all your household will be saved.' As I began to speak, the Holy Spirit came on them as he had come on us at the beginning. Then I remembered what the Lord had said: 'John baptised with water, but you will be baptised with the Holy Spirit.' So if God gave them the same gift as he gave us, who believed in the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I to think that I could oppose God? When they heard this, they had no further objections and praised God, saying, 'So then, God has granted even the Gentiles repentance unto life.'

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

Second Reading Rev 21 v 1 - 6

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea. I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Now the dwelling of God is with men, and he will live with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away." He who was seated on the throne said, "I am making everything new!" Then he said, "Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true." He said to me: "It is done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. To him who is thirsty I will give to drink without cost from the spring of the water of life."

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

Third Reading John 13 v 31 - 35

When he was gone, Jesus said, "Now is the Son of Man glorified and God is glorified in him. If God is glorified in him, God will glorify the Son in himself, and will glorify him at once. My children, I will be with you only a little longer. You will look for me, and just as I told the Jews, so I tell you now: Where I am going, you cannot come. A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have

loved you, so you must love one another. By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.” (This is the word of the Lord -- **Thanks be to God**)

Post Communion Prayer

Eternal God, whose Son Jesus Christ is the way, the truth, and the life: grant us to walk in his way, to rejoice in his truth, and to share his risen life; who is alive and reigns, now and for ever. **Amen**

Hymns (Mission Praise)

Hail thou once despised Jesus, **203**; (After Confession) Father we Love you **142**; He that is in us, **219**; A New commandment, **1** & God of Glory, **219**; Hail to the Lord's anointed, **204**; Love Divine, **449**

Commentary The originator and completer of life

The voice from the throne declares, 'I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End'. There is a wonderful symmetry between the first and last book in the bible. In Genesis we are told that God created heaven and earth, in Revelation we hear of a new heaven and a New Earth. In Genesis the sun, moon and stars are called into being, in Revelation we are told that the Holy city has no need of the sun or moon because the glory of God lights it up. Genesis describes a paradise lost, Revelation a paradise restored. Genesis describes the cunning of the devil, man illicitly eating from the tree of life then fleeing and hiding from God. Revelation describes the devil bound, intimate communion between God and His people, and access restored to the tree of life.

The language of apocalyptic writing like the books of Daniel and Revelation is richly symbolic and sometimes complex to understand as it often needs to be interpreted at many different levels. This is made even more complex in the book of Revelation as it contains many repetitions and double repetitions, parallel passages and cross references to the same theme in different sections of the book. But the central message is as relevant now as it ever was and reveals the unchanging realities on which our faith is based. God promises to be with His people for ever, protecting them and saving them from evil. This theme was the foundation of the Israelite faith. It is personified in Jesus in the New Testament who declares as the Easter risen Christ 'I am with you always; yes, even to the end of time.' John wrote the Book of Revelation for Jewish readers who were clearly familiar with the Hebrew culture, language and alphabet. In Jewish thinking, a reference to the first and last letters of an alphabet (aleph and tau in Hebrew) was regarded as including all the intermediate letters, and represented totality or entirety. The Jews in their ancient commentaries on the Old Testament said that Adam transgressed the whole law from aleph to tau. Abraham, by contrast, observed the whole law from aleph to tau. The Jews also believed that when God brings blessing upon Israel, He does so abundantly, from aleph to tau. When used of God and Christ therefore, the first and last letters of the alphabet express eternity and omnipotence. Christ's claim to be the Alpha and the Omega reflects the statements of the Old Testament and is an affirmation that He is the all-powerful One of eternity past and eternity future.

For these early Jewish and Gentile Christians, and indeed for suffering Christians down the ages, Revelation is therefore an epic of Christian hope, the victory song of a persecuted church as Christ completes His task. A book filled with hope for Jewish and Gentile believers alike. A hope is based on the resurrection of Jesus Christ and His sovereign rule over the political and social events occurring around the world.

Revelation is also a book filled with instructions to believers on how to live out their faith, as fallen the world slips into moral darkness and includes warnings to unbelievers that the Day of Judgment is coming for all who refuse to bow their hearts to Jesus as King of kings. Those who are faithful

to Jesus have nothing to fear; we may all suffer a little for a while but ultimately, as the glorious finale of Revelation makes clear, good will overcome evil, God has triumphed over Satan and all his schemes and through Him, so will we. The sacrifice of the Lamb has won the victory, whatever trials the church and its people undergo in the interim; its confidence in God's faithfulness remains unshaken. The Lord will come soon and bring to completion that which He started when He first hovered over the Genesis waters.

Meditation

'I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End' is an expression found in several places in the book of Revelation. Alpha and Omega are the first and last letters of the *Greek* alphabet. But some think the book of Revelation echoes and reflects a more ancient Jewish work. If this is the case then the phrase may not just be a paraphrase of Isaiah 44 v 6, "I am the first and the last," but the Hellenized form of a well-known rabbinical dictum: "The seal of God is *Emet*", which means Truth, which in turn is derived from the letters Aleph, Mem, Tau, , the first, the middle, and the last letters of the *Hebrew* alphabet, the beginning, the middle, and the end of all things. Ancient Jewish writings record: "The men of the Great Synagogue prayed to God to remove from the earth the Evil Spirit, as the cause of all the trouble. Immediately a scroll fell from heaven with the word (Truth) written thereon... ..and the spirit left the earth". It is perhaps this scroll which is referred to in the book of Daniel, a book with many parallels to the book of Revelation, when the man dressed in linen says to Daniel, "...I will tell you what is written in the Book of Truth" (*Biketab Emet*), Dan 10 v 21. He is a God who is not just the beginning and ending of all things, but the middle too.

In the same way, Christ, who is the truth, is not only the beginning and the end, He is the middle too. He was present at the dawn of creation when the Triune God hovered over the waters and the world began. He will be present when He returns as King of Kings and Lord of Lords at the end of time. He is present in the middle with us, through His death and resurrection which we celebrate each Easter.

Prayers

Lord God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, who brought forth from the root of Jesse a Messiah for all the tribes of the earth; grant us faith and humility so to stand in awe of your purpose, that at the last all the branches of the tree of life may be grafted in, and all those whom you have chosen may rejoice together in your love. **Amen**

O Lord, support us all the day long of our lives, until the shades lengthen and the evening comes, the busy world is hushed, the fever of life is over, and our work is done. Then Lord, in your mercy, grant us safe lodging, a holy rest, and peace at the last. **Amen**

Almighty and everlasting God, who in the Paschal mystery established the new covenant of reconciliation, grant that all who have been reborn into the fellowship of Christ's body may show forth in their lives what they profess by their faith. **Amen**

Direct, O God, with your own living wisdom, our schools, universities and seats of knowledge, learning and wisdom, that they may more and more unveil the wondrous ways of your Kingdom and draw all to worship and adore your ongoing work of wondrous creation. **Amen**

God, who through the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ has given us the victory, give you joy and peace in your faith; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. **Amen**

Putnoe Heights Church and St. Mark's Church
Agenda for Annual Congregation Meeting 2004
To take place at St. Mark's 2.30pm & Putnoe Heights 4.00pm

Opening prayers The Reverend Charles Royden

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 by the Chairman to anybody leaving office

Elections to Office

Election of Church Leadership Team

Election of Deanery Synod representative

Election of Church Council representatives

Presentations

1. Presentation of Terrier and Inventory
2. Presentation of current church policy documents
3. Presentation of August church accounts
4. Presentation of membership lists (Electoral roll etc.)
5. Presentation of review usually by Church Leadership Team and presented in written document form

Closing Prayers

Please note that there will not be 'any other business.' 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 .

News, Views and Information

Putnoe Heights Ladies Tuesday Club Charity Concert on the 11 May at 7.30pm will feature the Kempston Musical Society. Admission £5 including refreshments with all proceeds going to support the Alzheimers Society.

Christian Aid Week 9 - 15h May Collecting packs are now available at Putnoe Heights & St Mark's. New collectors are always welcome to join the regulars. Please contact Beryl Wigginton or Lawrence Wyatt at Putnoe and Wendy Rider at St Mark's. Thank you

Thankyou to all NCH Boxholders for your generous help in collecting £187.46. This support nationwide enables the NCH to plan help & care for many thousands of children who are in desperate need . New supporters are always welcome. Margaret Standley.

Nomination forms for congregational representatives to Church Council are available from each church office or a member of the Leadership Teams. Completed forms to be returned no later than Sunday 9 May. Stephen Clare

Important Change Of Date The next meeting of the Bedford Deanery and Bedford North Methodist Circuit will take place on Thursday 24 June at Putnoe Heights Church. The meeting will begin with a joint Anglican/Methodist Eucharist at 7.30pm. This will be a con-celebrated communion with The Reverend Trevor Maines and the Reverend Jim Gorringe.

Peace Project Saturday School every week at Putnoe Heights Church. For details contact Mrs E Tarr Tel: 309881



"We find the defendant guilty, but we'd like to forgive him ..."

Changes to the Criminal Justice Act were made last week which will make clergy eligible for jury service. Apparently the courts need more eligible people to draw on and so doctors politicians and clergy are being called.

New Server. Our church website was moved to a different server this week, which meant the site was down for a few hours after midnight and some Email may have been delayed. Last month our number of visitors from across the world totalled over 13,000

Flowers in Church

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

NSPCC Coffee morning and Bring & Buy Friday 4 June at Putnoe Height Church 10am to 12 noon. Enquiries to Mary Bull Tel: 270329.

Garden of Remembrance. A new notice board will be fitted at the entrance of the Garden in the next few weeks. It will give information and a plan of the Garden to help relatives locate a plot.

Church Membership It would be extremely helpful if people were able to check their details on the Partnership List from time to time. Copies are kept in both church offices. Please do tell us if you have an Email address as this is a very quick and cheap way of keeping in touch. If you do have Email then send your name, address, telephone and preferred Email contact to office@thisischurch.com and we can check the record for you.

Bark. New deliveries are being arranged. If there is bark available at St Mark's then please do take bags from the church office for £1 and fill them from the pile at the bottom of the car park.

St Mark's Church Centre Management. The meeting took place this week and the following matters were among those discussed

Building Extension Appeal. The St Mark's building extension received pledges of £5,000 from the Wixamtree Trust and £10,000 from the J Paul Getty Trust. We wish to raise £200,000 so there is still a long way to go!

St. Mark's Play area. A new sandpit has been acquired for the play area at the front of the church. We have also ordered a new circular teak bench which will fit around the newly planted Whitebeam in the centre of the garden.

Heating. Having refurbished the toilets beautifully over the last half term, we have now scheduled the replacement of the heating system in the church hall for the summer holidays.

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

- 1. Jonathan Paul Wells** of this parish and Lorinda Claire Thompson of this parish but on the electoral roll of the Parish Church Clapham
- 2. Damian Craddock** and Donna Dawn Boucher both of this Parish. These are for the 1st time of asking. (2,9,16 May)
- 3. Thomas Stuart Catchpole** and Zoe Ann Burrows both of this parish to be married at St. Mary's Church, Luton These are for the first time of asking. (9,16,23 May)

Ministers out! This week The Reverend Charles Royden will be leading worship at St Michael's Church and the Reverend Neil Bramble Chapman will be leading worship at Park Road Methodist 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.

**Michael John Skinner
Phyllis Davis
Margaret Jean Gwynne**

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

The following funerals have been arranged

- The funeral of Mrs Maureen Bakon** will take place at Bedford Crematorium on Monday 10 May at 10.00am
- The funeral of Mr William Hockley** will take place at Bedford Crematorium on Monday 17 May
- The funeral of Mrs Rosemary Stephenson** will take place at Bedford Crematorium on Tuesday 18 May