



Methodist  
Church

# Partnership News

10 June 2007

10th in Ordinary Time



Church of  
England

## Partnership Church Services Today

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

Preacher – Mr Paul Fricker  
Leadership Team - Mrs Linda Parry  
Intercessions - Mrs Pat Leusby

### 11.00am Putnoe Heights - Morning Worship

Preacher - Mr Paul Fricker  
Leadership Team - Mrs Linda Hoar  
Intercessions - - Ministers

## 11th in Ordinary - 17 June

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

Preacher – Revd Dr Joan Crossley  
Leadership Team - Mr Mike Cooper  
Intercessions - Mrs Wendy Waters

### 11.00am Putnoe Heights - Holy Communion

Preacher - Revd Dr Joan Crossley  
Leadership Team - Mrs Jenny Emsley  
Intercessions - Mrs Sue Allen

**Reading 1:** 1 King 21:1-10, 15-21a

**Reading 2:** Galatians 2:15-21

**Reading 3:** Luke 7:36-8:3

## Thank You

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

The flowers at St Mark's Church this week are in memory of Ray Green.

We are always grateful for any donations for flowers perhaps to celebrate a special occasion, 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

O Holy Spirit, giver of life and light,  
breath of all creatures,  
purifier of all souls and healer of all wounds,  
be fire to my heart,  
light to my path and friend for my journey;  
and this for your own love's sake. Amen

*Hildegard of Bingen, 1098-1179*

## 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 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

### For Data Protection Purposes

Please note that any items submitted for inclusion in Partnership News will automatically be posted on our website.

Partnership News is also archived on our  
church website [www.ThisisChurch.com](http://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—5pm Monday to Friday

Tel/fax & Answering Service 365630 putnoe@thisischurch.com

Centre Manager Mr Barry Snelson 365630 & 344417

Leadership Team Mr Alan Cooper 365302 Mob 07989367604

Treasurer Mr Ian Morse 216428 treasurerph@thisischurch.com

Gift Aid Administrator - Mr John Hitt 404186

Youth & children's worker - Mrs Liz Spavins 302349

youth@thisischurch.com

## St. Mark's Church Centre (Open 9am - 5.00pm)

Tel/fax & Answering Service 342613 office@thisischurch.com

Centre Manager Miss Wendy Rider 342613

Leadership Team - Mrs Linda Parry 216724

Treasurer - Mr Ian Farthing 210892 treasurer@thisischurch.com

Gift Aid Administrator Mr Jim Williams 360605

# Regular Weekly Activities - A Guide To Our Churches

## Monday

**9.30-12.00pm Mon-Fri Putnoe Heights Pre-school**  
Headteacher Mrs Janet Smith ☎326685

**8.30-5.30pm Mon-Fri St Mark's Pre-school**  
Headteacher Mrs. Helen Harpin ☎312634  
(See website for more details)

**9.00am Clubhouse** at St. Mark's for those with Learning Disabilities. Karen Bywater ☎315460.

**10.00am Bakers Barn Art Group.** St Mark's Mr Kellie ☎721063

**12.00-1.00pm Story box** Putnoe Heights church welcome the under 5's and their carers to join them between 12noon and 1pm for a sandwich lunch followed by a Bible based story and singing. ☎Liz 302349

**2.30-4.30pm Bedford Arts Society** at Putnoe Heights Malcolm Smith ☎01234 400741 (weekly from 25 September 2006)

**4.00pm Storybox Plus** Putnoe Heights for 4-9 year Old. Meet at 3.30 for refreshments & games. Then till 5pm 'follow the year' through stories, drama, singing & craft activities. We then make a short presentation in church on first Sunday in each month. ☎Liz Spavins 302349

**4.15pm Rosemary Conley Diet & Fitness.** Putnoe Heights. Miriam Adcock ☎01908 565044

**4.15-6.00pm Kumon Maths** Putnoe Heights. Ms Raksha Mistry ☎01908 392698

**6.00pm Brownies** St Mark's. Mrs C Mathew ☎826190

**6.15 pm Brownies** Putnoe. Sharon Tanner ☎364710

**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.** Putnoe Heights Karen Simpson ☎244970

**7.30pm Creative Needles.** Putnoe Heights. Jacky Hayward ☎307648.

**7.30pm Whist Drive.** St Mark's each month next 18 June 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). Putnoe Heights. Judi Staughton ☎341821

**9.30am -12.30 & 4-9pm Slimming World** St. Mark's. Helen Folbigg ☎351223

**10.00am Keep Fit.** Putnoe Heights. Mrs Stileman ☎822230

**1.30-3pm Toddlers Playtime.** Putnoe Heights. Andrea ☎210177 or Majella ☎325293.

**1.30pm U3A Cinema Group.** St Mark's. Last Tuesday of the month. Mr Austin ☎365184

**2.00pm U3A Book Group.** St Mark's (3rd Tuesday only) Mrs Burman ☎364723

**2.00pm Library Walk W.I.** Putnoe Heights, meets monthly. Mrs C Allen ☎363878

**2-5pm Police Surgery.** St Mark's Foyer.

**2.15pm Putnoe Heights Women's Fellowship** - Next meeting 5 June Revd. J. Owen Betty Wyatt ☎350188.

**2.30pm Mother Teresa Support Group.** St Mark's Meets fortnightly. Wool and knitting needles provided. Mrs Maureen Watling ☎262225

**2.30pm Tuesday Afternoon Housegroup.** St Mark's

Meets fortnightly. Mary Stubbs ☎406784.

**3.45-5.30pm Stars School of Dance.** Putnoe Heights. Esther Sancto ☎272517 or ☎07917 0582468.

**6.30 - 7.30pm Yoga** Putnoe Heights. Rachel Leontyne ☎783129

**7.00pm Hearts in Beds Cardiac Support Group** at St Mark's, ( 1st Tuesday ) Contact Kate Parsons 351150

**7-8pm Keep Fit.** St. Mark's Jan Gregory ☎214107.

**7-9pm MT Karate** [all ages] Putnoe Heights. Karen King ☎07941 264885

**7- 10pm Card Makers Club** meets fortnightly at St Mark's. Carol Houghton ☎346718

**7.30pm Tabernacle of Truth Church** at Putnoe. Bible study & prayers. Revd.Tarr ☎360188 or 07866775515

**7.30-10.30pm Chartered Management Institute** St Mks

**7.45pm Putnoe Heights Ladies Tuesday Club** - Meets fortnightly. Next meeting 5 June Tourist Information Office Emily Williams Details : Audrey Wilkins ☎365068 or Margaret Gentle ☎309043

## Wednesday

**9.00am Paint Tots** at St Mark's Jacqui Harrahan ☎824475

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

**9.30am - Body Control Pilates.** Putnoe Heights. Stephanie Smith ☎357787.

**9.00am Clubhouse** at St Mark's for those with Learning Disabilities. Karen Bywater ☎315460.

**10.00am Holy Communion.** St. Mark's Chapel. A half hour service followed by coffee. All welcome.

**10am Sewing & Chat.** Putnoe Heights Valerie Russell ☎01462 815966

**10.30 am U3A Art Appreciation** Putnoe Heights Fortnightly. Audrey Hancock ☎365915.

**Luncheon Club.** Putnoe Heights fortnightly. Next meeting 13 June 2007 Putnoe Heights Office ☎365630

**1.00-3pm Police Surgery** at Putnoe Heights .

**1.30-4.00pm. Bridge Club for the Retired.** St. Mark's. Mr Barnes ☎261811

**2.15pm - Fifty plus Keep Fit.** Putnoe Heights Mrs Webster ☎856966

**4.15-6pm Kumon Maths.** Putnoe Heights Mrs Raksha Mistry ☎01908 392698

**6.00 pm Brownies.** St Mark's. Mrs Carol Warden ☎219731

**6.15-7.45pm Yoga and Relaxation** Putnoe Heights Racheall Monton ☎01234 297138

**6.30-7.30pm Karate.** St Mark's Karen ☎079412 64885

**7.00pm Bunyan Bridge.** St. Mark's

Brian Sallows ☎407725

**7.00pm Archaeological & Local History Society** meets monthly. Putnoe Heights. Sylvia Woods ☎365095

**7.00pm Yoga** St Mark's Dorothy Turner ☎721763

**7.00pm Putnoe Guild** meets monthly. Putnoe Heights. Janice ☎Loxley 347073

**7.45pm Badminton Club.** Putnoe Heights All welcome. Ken Marriott ☎214867

**8.00-10.00pm Tudor Reeds Folk Dance Club** St Mark's, 1st ,3rd & 5th Wednesday. More details Graham ☎406359 or Danny ☎401668.

**8.00pm Bedford Wine and Social Club** St Mark's (1st week) Mrs Gansfield ☎215016

## Thursday

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

**9.30am-12.30 Jo Jingles.** St. Mark's. Music & movement for pre-school children. Jayne Phillips ☎01582 485333

**9.45am Yoga** Putnoe Heights Karen Simpson ☎244970

**9.45am-11.30am Chat and Play** St.Mark's. A group for Mums & toddlers. £1.50 for first child + 50p for each extra child over 2 years. More details from St. Marks Office ☎342613 or Emma Strangwick ☎211070

**1.30pm-3.00pm NHS Baby Clinic.** St. Mark's ☎267444

**12pm Storybox.** St Mark's Church welcome the under 5's and their carers to join them between 12 noon and 1pm for a sandwich lunch followed by a Bible based story and singing. Lots of fun. Contact Emma Strangwick ☎211070

**1.30-3pm Toddler Playtime.** Putnoe Andrea ☎210177 or Magella ☎325293.

**2- 4.30pm Putnoe Bridge Club.** Gerald Palmer ☎345991

**5.30-7.30pm Police Surgery.** St Mark's Foyer.

**6.15 pm Weightwatchers.** St. Mark's.

Mrs Margaret Ralph ☎01767 224978.

**6.15pm Brownies.** Putnoe Heights Helga Nash ☎218521

**6.15pm Bedford Junior Chess Club.** St. Mark's

Mr & Mrs Pike ☎823795

**7.00pm Club 2000** Putnoe Heights

Sheila Jakeman ☎261935

**7-9pm U3A Folk & Poetry Group.** St Mark's (Fortnightly starting from 26th April) Contact Doug Ovenden ☎825059

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

**7.30-9.30pm Embroiderers' Guild** St Mark's 3rd Thursday of the month. Mrs E Rigby ☎344442

**7.30-9.30pm Tabernacle of Truth Church** Putnoe Heights Bible Studies every 2 Thursday- Pastor Tarr ☎360188

**7.45pm Housegroup** meets fortnightly Betty Wyatt ☎350188

**8.00-10pm Bedford Writers Circle.** St Mark's 1st Thursday each month. Mr Broadhouse ☎740271

**8.00-10.00pm Magpies Women's Group** St Mark's (2nd & 4th weeks) Mrs Cotchin ☎402089

**8.00pm Brickhill Wives** St Mark's (1st and 3rd weeks) Mrs Woods ☎404702

## Friday

**9.30am & 12.30pm U3A Photography Group** (4th week) Joyce Fildes ☎353086

**9.00am Clubhouse** St. Mark's for those with Learning Disabilities. Karen Bywater ☎315460.

**1.30-2pm Stars School of Dance** Putnoe Heights Contact Esther Sancto ☎272517 or ☎07917 582468

**2.00pm U3A Gardening Group** Putnoe Heights Eve Whitehead ☎356875

**6.30-9.00pm Line Dancing.** St Mark's A night of fun Christine Rushton ☎782360

**7-10pm Bedford Arts Society** fortnightly Putnoe Heights from 8 September. Malcolm Smith ☎01234 400741

**7.30pm Youth Club for age 10-15.** St Mark's Church. Contact PCSO Rowland Gilbey ☎349179

## Saturday

**9.00- 12.00pm Stars School of Dance.** Putnoe Esther Sancto ☎272517 or ☎07917 582468

**10.00am - 1.00pm Theatretrain** St Mark's. Dancing acting, singing. Kate Randle ☎01234 782414

**7.15-10.30pm Duplicate Bridge.** St Mark's Ann or Peter ☎212066

## Sunday

**9.30 - 10.30 at St. Mark's Church and Sunday School with crèche for under 3's**

**11.00 - 12.00 Putnoe Heights** - Church and Junior Church for the under 9's and Young Peoples Fellowship (Y.P.F) for our young adults. A crèche is also available.

**1 - 3pm Tabernacle of Truth Church** Putnoe Heights Revd. Tarr ☎360188 or ☎07866775515

**6-7.30pm T.N.T.** Putnoe. For 9-12 year olds (fortnightly) join us for fellowship, fun, games & outings. Liz ☎302349.

**6 -7.30pm T.X.T** Putnoe. for 13 + fortnightly, join us for fellowship, debate & discussion. Liz ☎302349

## Diary Dates

**St Mark's Church Council** – 12 June

**St Mark's Leadership Team** – 26 June Linda Parry

**Putnoe Heights Leadership Team** –25 June at Lawrence Wyatt's.

**St Mark's Church Management Meeting** - 20 June.

**Putnoe Heights Centre Management** - 16 July

**Putnoe Church Council** -

**Pastoral Group Meeting** –

**Churchyard Committee** - 5 September 11am

**Putnoe Heights Mission Group Meeting** Wednesday 13 June, 14 Flint Way.

**Partnership Council** -

**Brickhill Parish Council**

Meetings on 7 June, 5 July

**Deanery Meeting** - 13 September St Paul's

**Circuit Meeting** 14 June at St Mark's

**Woodland Burial Trustees** - 18th June 7pm

**Putnoe Heights Children & Youth**–

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

## Telecare



It is extremely helpful to the Ministers to be able to have feed back, especially if somebody is poorly or in hospital. If you have not yet put your name down, please do so. Additional members of the Pastoral Team are sharing the task of making telephone calls. Please do not be concerned if a new person calls.

## 10th in Ordinary



### Opening Verse 1 Peter 1:8

You have not seen Christ, yet you love him; and trusting in him now without seeing him, you are filled with a glorious joy too great for words

### Collect Prayer for the Day

Ever-loving God, your Son Jesus Christ healed the sick and restored them to wholeness of life. Look with compassion on the anguish of the world, and by your power make whole both people and nations; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. *Methodist Worship*

### First Bible Reading - 1 Kings 17: 8-16

Then the word of the LORD came to him: "Go at once to Zarephath of Sidon and stay there. I have commanded a widow in that place to supply you with food." So he went to Zarephath. When he came to the town gate, a widow was there gathering sticks. He called to her and asked, "Would you bring me a little water in a jar so I may have a drink?" As she was going to get it, he called, "And bring me, please, a piece of bread." "As surely as the LORD your God lives," she replied, "I don't have any bread--only a handful of flour in a jar and a little oil in a jug. I am gathering a few sticks to take home and make a meal for myself and my son, that we may eat it--and die." Elijah said to her, "Don't be afraid. Go home and do as you have said. But first make a small cake of bread for me from what you have and bring it to me, and then make something for yourself and your son. For this is what the LORD, the God of Israel, says: 'The jar of flour will not be used up and the jug of oil will not run dry until the day the LORD gives rain on the land.'" She went away and did as Elijah had told her. So there was food every day for Elijah and for the woman and her family. For the jar of flour was not used up and the jug of oil did not run dry, in keeping with the word of the LORD spoken by Elijah. Some time later the son of the woman who owned the house became ill. He grew worse and worse, and finally stopped breathing. She said to Elijah, "What do you have against me, man of God? Did you come to remind me of my sin and kill my son?" "Give me your son," Elijah replied. He took him from her arms, carried him to the upper room where he was staying, and laid him on his bed. Then he cried out to the LORD, "O LORD my God, have you brought tragedy also upon this widow I am staying with, by causing her son to die?" Then he stretched himself out on the boy three times and cried to the LORD, "O LORD my God, let this boy's life return to him!" The LORD heard Elijah's cry, and the boy's life returned to him, and he lived. Elijah picked up the child and carried him down from the room into the house. He gave him to his mother and said, "Look, your son is alive!" Then the woman said to Elijah, "Now I know that you are a man of God and that the word of the LORD from your mouth is the truth." (This is the word of the Lord -- **Thanks be to God**)

### Second Bible Reading — Galatians 1: 11-24

I want you to know, brothers, that the gospel I preached is not something that man made up. I did not receive it from any man, nor was I taught it; rather, I received it by revelation from Jesus Christ. For you have heard of my previous way of life in Judaism, how intensely I persecuted the church of God and tried to destroy it. I was advancing in Judaism beyond many Jews of my own age and was extremely zealous for the traditions of my fathers. But when God, who set me apart from birth and called me by his grace, was pleased to reveal his Son in me so that I might preach him among the Gentiles, I did not consult any man, nor did I go up to Jerusalem to see those who were apostles before I was, but I went immediately into Arabia and later returned to Damascus. Then after three years, I went up to Jerusalem to get acquainted with Peter and stayed with him fifteen days. I saw none of the other apostles--only James, the Lord's brother. I assure you before God that what I am writing you is no lie. Later I went to Syria and Cilicia. I was personally unknown to the churches of Judea that are in Christ. They only heard the report: "The man who formerly persecuted us is now preaching the faith he once tried to destroy." And they praised God because of me. (This is the word of the Lord -- **Thanks be to God**)

### Third Bible Reading – Luke 7: 11-17

Soon afterward, Jesus went to a town called Nain, and his disciples and a large crowd went along with him. As he approached the town gate, a dead person was being carried out--the only son of his mother, and she was a widow. And a large crowd from the town was with her. When the Lord saw her, his heart went out to her and he said, "Don't cry." Then he went up and touched the coffin, and those carrying it stood still. He said, "Young man, I say to you, get up!" The dead man sat up and began to talk, and Jesus gave him back to his mother. They were all filled with awe and praised God. "A great prophet has appeared among us," they said. "God has come to help his people." This news about Jesus spread throughout Judea and the surrounding country.

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

### Commentary

The Gospel story in Luke today tells of a funeral. The scene at a funeral Galilee in the time of Jesus would be very different from a funeral today. At a modern funeral today there is often a silence, so much so that the family feel that they have to 'keep it in' to avoid making a scene. Our funerals are controlled affairs, stiff upper lip and an embarrassment at public grief. When Jesus saw the funeral procession coming out of the town of Nain, he would probably have heard it long before he ever saw the dead body. There would have been professional mourners in a procession, and they would have made such a racket that the widow could have cried as much as she liked without feeling embarrassment. The body would be wrapped and taken away from where people lived, perhaps to a cave, to be laid on a stone shelf where decomposition would have taken place. Eventually when the flesh had rotted away the family would collect the bones together and place them in a box, leaving the shelf ready for the next body.

It is into this scene of mourning and hopelessness that Jesus arrived. It might be that people knew who he was. Nain is only about five miles south of Nazareth, where Jesus grew up. Nobody asks Jesus to do anything, no doubt the twice bereaved woman had lost all hope. There is no great display of faith from people imploring Jesus to do something. Instead Jesus just becomes full of compassion, as he often was. Perhaps it was because this woman had suffered two bereavements, perhaps it was because Jesus knew how difficult life would become for her without a son to support her. Perhaps it was seeing the dreadful pain which affected so many people when somebody dies. Perhaps Jesus just knew how his own mother would feel when he progressed towards Jerusalem and his own certain death. Whatever the reason, he goes forward and he touches the funeral bier.

A funeral such as this would not have been a private affair, there would have been lots of people around, and they would have witnessed this remarkable miracle. They would have been astonished that Jesus went and touched in the way that he did. Touching is a powerful thing to do, it was also something which Jesus should not have done, for he himself became ritually unclean. It is always interesting that Jesus takes upon himself the criticism of the law, and by doing so makes others experience new life. In so many ways throughout his life Jesus turned the tables, in this incident, instead of the dead defiling the living; the living infused the dead with new life. (Numbers 19:11, 16).

Jesus commands the dead man to arise; the young man does so, and he is given to his mother. The onlookers are seized by fear, and they glorify God, seeing Jesus as a prophet and God as having looked favourably on his people.

Today, when we read this story we may remember other stories such as Peter's raising of Tabitha in Acts 9:36-42 or, more likely, the story of Jesus' raising of Lazarus in John 11. When the Gospel was written however, Luke knew that his readers would make connections with similar miracle stories from within Judaism. These are recorded in what we know as the Old Testament. Specifically, Jesus' miracle would remind the Jewish readers at the time, of the miracles and ministries of the Old Testament prophets Elijah and Elisha. These two prophets both raised the son of a widow and there are many similarities in the stories, (see church website). By drawing these comparisons Jesus is shown to be a healer like Elijah and Elisha. He is also a prophet characterized by compassion, one who is recognized as worthy of honour.

Yet we know Jesus is much more than just a prophet and this story points forward to a few verses later in Luke 7:18-23, here John sends his disciples to Jesus to ask him, "Are you he who is to come, or shall we look for another?" (7:19b). Jesus responds, "Go and tell John what you have seen and heard: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, the dead are raised up, the poor have good news preached to them. And blessed is he who takes no offence at me" (7:22-23).

This episode therefore serves to remind us that Jesus carries on the traditions of the Old Testament prophets, yet he is much more than a prophet himself. Jesus is the one to whom the scriptures pointed, the one waited for by John, the Messiah. How remarkable that the one who everybody was waiting for should be the kind of Messiah who walked the desert in the heat of the day and took pity on poor

bereaved widows and didn't give a monkey's whether he transgressed religious conventions. The Gospel story of the raising of the son of the widows, is a reminder to the Christians that not even death can break our faith in a God who has the gift of life which is stronger than death itself. 'The Lord giveth and the Lord taketh away,' but the most powerful truth is that just as God gave life first to our mortal bodies, so he can also give to us life again after our death. Jesus tells the dead man to rise, he has the authority to do and this was his mission, to give life in abundance. Jesus is the resurrection and the life. We, who believe in him, need not fear death.

It was this belief that the power of Jesus was stronger than death, which gave the first disciples a trusting faith which could not be threatened by persecution or execution. Christians had a profound conviction that Jesus held the answer to everlasting life, hence they were always optimistic for the long term. However there is another feature of life which should be different for the Christian. Those people who do not accept the resurrection promises of God have life which is only a short term and inevitable descent towards nothingness. How meaningless this life becomes when we fail to appreciate the promises of life beyond this mortal moment. Yet for the Christian, trusting in the grace of God for eternal life, this time on earth is but preparation, an opportunity to invest our time in living and loving, knowing that love will last forever in God's time. Charles Royden

### **Meditation Moving Beyond Stereotypes.**

In the story from Kings, Elijah was in a difficult fix. He had just told the King of Israel, Ahab (husband of Queen Jezebel), that Israel would experience a drought. Jezebel was the daughter of King Ethbaal (1 Kings 16:31) of the Sidonians — a place where Baal was worshiped. Commentaries speculate that Baal worship spread through Israel because of Jezebel's influence. Elijah was sent to a stream of water near Jordan and was told to expect to be fed first by the ravens, ravens were considered unclean. Then he was fed by a foreign woman, from the same region that wicked, idolatrous Queen Jezebel came from! This was a Gentile woman — yet God told Elijah that his sustenance would come from her. If you were Elijah, would you find it difficult to accept help from any person from Jezebel's region? Did everyone in Sidon worship Baal and stand in opposition to the worship of Israel's God? Perhaps, as the woman was learning something about Elijah's God, Elijah was also learning something about people. We cannot sort and classify people and put them into boxes. Each is unique and endowed with an ability to respond to the grace of God. This raises questions about lines of division between peoples, classism, sexism and all sorts of things. Where do lines of separation come from, and when should they be crossed?

### **Post Communion Prayer**

Eternal father, we thank you for feeding us with these heavenly gifts: may our communion strengthen us in faith, build us up in hope, and make us grow in love; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

### **Hymns (Please distribute Morning Worship and Mission Praise)**

1. Come let us join our cheerful songs 93
2. O Let the Son of God enfold you 502 (After confession)
3. We cry Hosanna Lord 725
4. There is a redeemer 673
5. God of Old who sent the prophet (On Partnership News—Tune Ode to Joy)
6. Glorious things of thee are spoken 173 (Tune Austria )

### **Prayers for Sunday and the week ahead**

O God our Judge and Saviour set before us the vision of your purity and let us see our sins in the light of your holiness. pierce our self-contentment with the shafts of your burning love and let that love consume in us all the hinders us from the perfect service of your cause; for as your holiness is our judgement so are your wounds our salvation. *William Temple*

Almighty God, in whom we live and move and have our being, you have created us for yourself so that our hearts are restless till they rest in you. Grant us purity of heart and strength of purpose, that no selfish passion may hinder us from knowing your will, no weakness from doing it, that in you light we may see light, and in your service find perfect freedom; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *St Augustine*

**Putnoe Church 50th Anniversary Weekend Celebration 16 – 17 June. Saturday 10 - 4 :** The Church will be open for visitors to view the history display and flowers and meet friends for refreshments.

2-4pm. Activities for children and families with a Fancy Dress Parade, building activities—Jenga - Knockout !

7.30pm Concert of light music by Kempston Musical Society - Programme £5 available from Alan Bayliss (268101) the church office or on the door.

**Sunday 17th** -11am Holy Communion  
4pm Circuit Celebration Service - Preacher John Payne Cook ( Partnership Minister 1976-85 )  
5.30pm Bring and share buffet. Please see list in Putnoe welcome area for ideas of food to bring.

**Help Required.** Storybox at St Mark's needs help with refreshments for about an hour over lunchtime. If anyone feels they could lend a hand once every six weeks, Emma would love to hear from you. If you leave your telephone number at the office Emma will get back to you or ring Emma 211070. Thank you.

**TNT** meets tonight Sunday 10th June. Beginners evening bird watch run by the Bedford Rangers. Meet Bedford park - main gates opposite De Parys Avenue, 7–9pm early pickups can be arranged) Bring binoculars, a drink and good walking shoes (and maybe a waterproof), Sunday 24th June focusing on prayer. Sunday 8 & 22 July cooking/rounders depending on weather.

**Two Day Summer Special**—'Joseph and his Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat'. We invite all our young adults (under100yrs!)and children (over 5 years) throughout the Partnership, to join us at Putnoe Heights on Tuesday 21 & Wednesday22 August between 9.30 and 3.30 for two days of fun. We will learn about Joseph and his family relationships through story, discussion, games, crafts and under the direction of Clive Simmonds put together the 20 minute musical performance. More details will follow. Liz

**.50th Anniversary Pens !** Why not buy a special pen to mark the 50th Anniversary of Putnoe Heights Church ? The pens are black and come in a smart box. Available now at Putnoe, price £3 or phone Jenny Emsley 360397

**Storybox plus** now meets at Putnoe on a Monday afternoon between 3.30 and 5.00. If any children aged between 4 and 9 years old within the Partnership would like to join us as we "Follow the Year" please contact Liz

**Christian books for the under fives** - If anyone has any books which would be suitable for using at

Storybox on a Thursday at St Mark's, Emma and her team would be very pleased to have them. Books may be left at the Church Office at any time.

**Tuesday Club Charity Concert** Tuesday 19 June at 7.30pm by Five in Harmony (formerly Albany Concert) in aid of Hearing Dogs for the Deaf. Admission £5, including refreshments and lucky programme, all welcome.

**"The Great Gappo"** children's entertainer at Putnoe Heights on Monday 23 July 12 -3pm .Sandwich lunch, games and crafts. Tickets at Story Box & Story Box Plus or Junior church. £2 on the door. All welcome. See Liz or Emma.

**Arthritis Research Annual Appeal.** If you were not at home when our collector called during the House-to-House week or there was no collector for your road and you wish to contribute to our appeal for the important work of medical research into arthritic diseases, you may do so today and next Sunday. A basket with donation envelopes is available in the main entrance of both St Mark's and Putnoe Heights churches. Please place filled envelopes in the basket or hand in at the Church Office. Very many thanks for all your help. Marian Goddard

**Putnoe Heights** recently donated £607.74 to Christian Family Care, consisting of collections from Christmas services 2006 and a donation from Mission funds. Extract from letter of acknowledgement in Welcome Area.".....we are continuing to provide and expand the services we offer ....we are increasing our Family Support Services at our Manor Farm Family Centre and continue our involvement with projects working with families and young people.....We are therefore so grateful for the support of our local churches such as yourselves to aid us in offering added benefits to the services we can offer to the vulnerable in our community. Please do pass on our thanks to all the members of your church." Sylvia Cohen

**We would be grateful** for any help in stacking the chairs after morning service each Sunday. Many thanks Linda Parry.

**Thank You** — To everybody who helped with the consecration services this week. They were both marvellous occasions to celebrate the way in which we have been blessed with two beautiful places.

**Church Councils** Please note that there will be a meeting of the church councils of both churches this week, all are welcome to attend.  
Putnoe Heights meets on Monday at 7.30pm  
St Mark's meets on Tuesday at 7.30pm for coffee with a 7.45pm start of business.

**Christian Aid** collection for Putnoe Heights raised the best ever sum of £1515. Sincere thanks to all who collected and organised.

**An evening of Song and the Gershwin Story** by The Moonlighters (based at Blunham) and Rex Walford on Saturday 23 June at 7.30pm at Putnoe Heights Church. Tickets £6 (concessions£4) from Liz Roome (01767 313742) or Liz Calvert (01234 358100) or on the door. Refreshments included.

**The new Pentecost banner**, created by Val Morgan and Maureen Watling was first displayed at Putnoe on Sunday 21st May. We thank them both for their excellent work.

**Bedford Cricketing Saints & Warthogs.**

Interested in playing? There is a busy fixture list of matches both home and away, on Sunday afternoons and mid-week, plus a tour in July. Contact Adrian Quarry on 409612 or Mike Cooper at St. Mark's.

**Have you a room which you might let to Adam?**

Adam Hills, the son of Nick and Jan Hills, is looking for accommodation in this area. His preference would be for a bed, breakfast and evening meal arrangement. He is a very tidy, reliable and responsible tenant who always pays his rent on time. He is diligent, hardworking and not given to wild parties and late-night revelry. If you think you may be able to help, please ring Adam on 07977 106546 or us on 01234 403551. Alison and Warwick Holden

**The Dorothea Trust, The Haven** invite you to a coffee morning on Tuesday 5th, 12th, 19th or 26th June between 10.30 - 11.30am. We welcome your prayerful interest and fellowship with us and would love you to come and visit us. We have residents coffee morning every Tuesday and we invite you to come and join us on any of the above Tuesdays at 32 Park Avenue, Bedford.

**A Hymn for Sunday**

- 1 God of old, who sent the prophet,  
with the life-renewing word,  
full of anger and compassion,  
which the poor and humble heard;  
where the tears of grief are falling,  
hear the church's angry cry,  
with abundant life responding  
to the great resounding 'Why?'
- 2 God of life, in hope resplendent,  
greet us at the final gate;  
meet the threat of dereliction  
with the power to re-create.  
Feel again the prophet's anger,  
hear again the widow's cries;  
speak at last the word of healing,  
calling us from death to rise.
- 3 God of hope, you chose and called us,  
from the darkness of the womb,  
to the joy of life abundant,  
stronger even than the tomb.  
Harness all our hope and anger  
with the energy of grace,  
joy in life renewed proclaiming,  
forcing open death's embrace.

Tune: Ode to Joy



**Wedding**

We publish the banns and pray for the marriage of Claire Eley and Donald Joseph Phillips. Both of this parish This is for the first time of asking.

**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.

**Aubrey Keith Dugdale  
Vera Temperley**

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

**Rest in Peace**

**The funeral of Irene Maxfield** will take place at Putnoe Heights Church on Monday 18th June at 10.45 am followed by the committal at Bedford Crematorium at 11.30am. (Crossley)



**The funeral of Marcie Lester** will take place at St Mark's Chaple on Wednesday 17 June at 11.30am followed by burial at St Albans Woodland, Keysoe. (Royden)