



Methodist  
Church

# Partnership News

11 March 2007

## Third Sunday of Lent



Church of  
England

### Partnership Church Services Today

**8.30am Holy Communion every Sunday** on the 1st, 3rd & 5th Sunday at Putnoe Heights Church. On the 2nd & 4th Sunday at St Mark's Chapel.

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

Preacher - Revd Dr Joan Crossley  
Leadership - Mr Mike Cooper  
Intercessions – Mr Ian Farthing

#### **11.00am Putnoe - Morning Worship**

Preacher - Revd Dr Joan Crossley  
Leadership Team - Mr Alan Cooper  
Intercessions - Mrs Sylvia Cohen

### Fourth Sunday of Lent-11 March Mothering Sunday

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

Preacher – Revd Charles Royden  
Leadership Team - Mrs Delia Shephard  
Intercessions - Mrs Morag Stewart

#### **11.00am -Putnoe Heights - Morning Worship**

Preacher - Revd Charles Royden  
Leadership Team - Mr Alan Bayliss  
Intercessions - Mr Eddy Peck

Reading 1: Isaiah 55: 1-9

Reading 2:1 Cor 10: 1-13

Reading 3: Luke 13: 1-9

### Thank You

The Flowers at St Mark's have been given by Paul Marshall and family in memory of his wife Shirley who is always in their thoughts and sadly missed.

The flowers in Putnoe Church have been given by Mary Stokes and June Cook and families, in remembrance of George and Doris Curness, dear parents and grandparents, who are always in our thoughts.

### Prayer for Sunday

Father God,  
we ask that you would give  
the nations of the world  
a thirst for righteousness and justice,  
that they would not waste  
the riches you have give to the earth,  
and that they would strive  
for peace and harmony  
with all people. Amen

### Contact Details

#### **The Reverend Dr. Sam Cappleman**

107 Dover Crescent, Bedford MK41 8QR  
266952 Fax- 402624 NSM@ThisisChurch.com  
(Sam also works full time as a General Manager for Hewlett Packard)

#### **The Reverend 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 Bayliss 268101

**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 Janet Day 295592

**Treasurer** - Mr John Day 295592 treasurer@thisischurch.com

**Gift Aid Administrator** Mr Jim Williams 360605

# Regular Weekly Activities - A Guide To Our Churches

## Monday

**9.30 - 12.00 pm Mon-Fri Putnoe Heights Pre-school** Mrs Janet Smith 326685  
**8.30 - 5.30 pm Mon-Fri St Mark's Pre-school** Mrs. Helen Harpin 312634  
(See website for more details)  
**9.00 am Clubhouse** at St. Mark's for those with Learning Disabilities. Karen Bywater 315460.  
**12.00pm - 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 . Lots of fun,.Contact Liz on 01234 302349  
**2.30 - 4.30pm** Bedford Arts Society at Putnoe Heights contact Malcolm Smith on 01234 400741 (weekly from 25 September 2006)  
**4.15pm - Rosemary Conley Diet & Fitness.** Putnoe Heights. Miriam Adcock 01908 565044  
**4.15 - 6.00pm Kumon Maths** at Putnoe Heights. Contact 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** at Putnoe Heights Church. Contact Karen Simpson 244970  
**7.30pm Creative Needles** at Putnoe Heights. Jacky Hayward 307648. New members welcome.  
**7.30pm Whist Drive** - At St Mark's each month next 19 March Contact 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. Judi Staughton 341821  
**10.00am Keep Fit** at Putnoe Heights. Mrs Stileman 822230  
**1.30-3pm Toddlers Playtime** at Putnoe Heights. Contact Andrea 210177 or Magella 325293.  
**9.30am -12.30 & 4 - 9pm Slimming World** at St. Mark's. Helen Folbigg 351223  
**2.00pm Library Walk W.I.** at Putnoe Heights meets monthly. Contact Mrs C Allen 363878  
**2 - 5pm Police Surgery.** St Mark's Foyer.  
**2.15pm Putnoe Heights Women's Fellowship** - Next meeting ;13 March Favourite Hymns Contact Betty Wyatt 350188.  
**2.30pm Mother Teresa Support Group.** Meets fortnightly at St. Mark's. Wool and knitting needles provided. Mrs Maureen Watling 262225  
**2.30pm Tuesday Afternoon Housegroup.** Meets fortnightly at St. Mark's. For details of next meeting contact Mary Stubbs 406784.

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

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

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

**Tuesday - 7pm-9pm MT Karate** [all ages] at Putnoe Heights. Please contact Karen King 07941 264885

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

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

**7. 45 pm Putnoe Heights Ladies Tuesday Club** - Meets fortnightly. Next meeting 13 March 'Life in Africa' Margot Partner. Contact Audrey Wilkins 365068 or Margaret Gentle 309043

## Wednesday

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

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

**9.00 a.m. Clubhouse** at St Mark's for those with Learning Disabilities. Contact Karen Bywater 315460.

**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

**10.30 am U3A Art Appreciation** meets fortnightly at Putnoe Heights - For details of next meeting Contact Audrey Hancock 365915.

**Luncheon Club** at Putnoe Heights fortnightly. For details of next meeting 21 March 2007 contact Putnoe 365630

**1 - 3pm Police Surgery** at Putnoe Heights .

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

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

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

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

**6.15pm - 7.45pm Yoga and Relaxation** at Putnoe Heights. contact Racheall Monton 01234 297138

**6.30 - 7.30 at St Mark's Karate** contact Karen 079412 64885

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

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

**7pm Putnoe Guild** meets monthly at Putnoe Heights. Janice Loxley 347073

**7.45pm Badminton Club** at Putnoe Heights - all

welcome. 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.*

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

**9.45am Yoga** at Putnoe Heights. Karen Simpson 244970

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

**1.30pm - 3.00pm Clinic** at St. Mark's 267444

**12pm Story box** 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 Biblebased story and singing . Lots of fun. Contact Emma Strangwick 211070

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

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

**4.00 Story box Plus** at 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 the 1st Sunday of each month Lots of fun. Liz Spavins 302349

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

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

**6.15pm Brownies** at Putnoe Helga Nash 218521

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

**7.00pm Club 2000** at Putnoe Sheila Jakeman 261935

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

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

**7.30 - 9.30 Tabernacle of Truth Church** at Putnoe Bible Studies every 2 Thursday– Pastor Tarr 360188

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

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

### Friday

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

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

**2pm U3A Gardening Group** at Putnoe Heights Contact Eve Whitehead 356875

**7 - 10pm Bedford Arts Society** meets fortnightly at Putnoe Heights from 8 September. Contact Malcolm

Smith 01234 400741

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

### Saturday

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

**10.00am - 1.00pm Theatretrain** at St Mark's – dancing acting, singing. - Kate Randle 01234 782414

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

### Sunday

**Junior Church with crèche for under 3's**

**9.30 - 10.30 at St. Mark's**

**11-12 at Putnoe Heights.**

**1 - 3pm Tabernacle of Truth Church** at Putnoe Heights - Worship. Contact Revd. Tarr 360188 Mob. 07866775515

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

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

## Diary Dates

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

**Circuit Meeting - 14 March**

**St Mark's Leadership Team – 9 May 07** at the Vicarage, 26 June Linda's

**Putnoe Heights Leadership Team –30 April** at Alan Cooper's

**St Mark's Church Management Meeting - 24 April, 20 June.**

**Putnoe Heights Centre Management - 14 May, 16 July**

**Putnoe Church Council - 11 June**

**Pastoral Group Meeting – 8 May 07**

**Churchyard Committee - 6 June 07**

**Putnoe Heights Mission Group Meeting 28 March 7.30pm** at 14 Flint Walk

**Partnership Council -**

**Brickhill Parish Council - 5 April 7 June, 5 July**

**Deanery Meeting -**

**Putnoe Heights Children & Youth– 23 April** at 1.00pm

**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.**

## Third Sunday of Lent

### Verse of Scripture - Psalm 51: 17

The sacrifice of God is a broken spirit: a broken and contrite heart He will not despise.

### Collect Prayer - *Before we read we pray*

Eternal God, give us insight to discern your will for us, to give up what harms us and to seek the perfection we are promised in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. *Common Worship Shorter Collect*

### First Bible Reading - Isaiah 55: 1-9

"Come, all you who are thirsty, come to the waters; and you who have no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without cost. Why spend money on what is not bread, and your labour on what does not satisfy? Listen, listen to me, and eat what is good, and your soul will delight in the richest of fare. Give ear and come to me; hear me, that your soul may live. I will make an everlasting covenant with you, my faithful love promised to David. See, I have made him a witness to the peoples, a leader and commander of the peoples. Surely you will summon nations you know not, and nations that do not know you will hasten to you, because of the LORD your God, the Holy One of Israel, for he has endowed you with splendour." Seek the LORD while he may be found; call on him while he is near. Let the wicked forsake his way and the evil man his thoughts. Let him turn to the LORD, and he will have mercy on him, and to our God, for he will freely pardon. "For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways," declares the LORD. "As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.

(Reader: This is the word of the Lord. **All: Thanks be to God**)

### Second Reading - 1 Corinthians: 1-13

For I do not want you to be ignorant of the fact, brothers, that our forefathers were all under the cloud and that they all passed through the sea. They were all baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea. They all ate the same spiritual food and drank the same spiritual drink; for they drank from the spiritual rock that accompanied them, and that rock was Christ. Nevertheless, God was not pleased with most of them; their bodies were scattered over the desert. Now these things occurred as examples to keep us from setting our hearts on evil things as they did. Do not be idolaters, as some of them were; as it is written: "The people sat down to eat and drink and got up to indulge in pagan revelry." We should not commit sexual immorality, as some of them did--and in one day twenty-three thousand of them died. We should not test the Lord, as some of them did--and were killed by snakes. And do not grumble, as some of them did--and were killed by the destroying angel. These things happened to them as examples and were written down as warnings for us, on whom the fulfilment of the ages has come. So, if you think you are standing firm, be careful that you don't fall! No temptation has seized you except what is common to man. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can stand up under it

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

### Gospel Reading - Luke 13: 1-9

Now there were some present at that time who told Jesus about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mixed with their sacrifices. Jesus answered, "Do you think that these Galileans were worse sinners than all the other Galileans because they suffered this way? I tell you, no! But unless you repent, you too will all perish. Or those eighteen who died when the tower in Siloam fell on them--do you think they were more guilty than all the others living in Jerusalem? I tell you, no! But unless you repent, you too will all perish." Then he told this parable: "A man had a fig

**God is  
faithful  
and will  
not  
test you  
beyond  
your  
strength.**

**1 Corinthians 10.13**

tree, planted in his vineyard, and he went to look for fruit on it, but did not find any. So he said to the man who took care of the vineyard, 'For three years now I've been coming to look for fruit on this fig tree and haven't found any. Cut it down! Why should it use up the soil?' 'Sir,' the man replied, 'leave it alone for one more year, and I'll dig around it and fertilize it. If it bears fruit next year, fine! If not, then cut it down.'

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

### **Post Communion Prayer**

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

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

1. All my hope of God is founded 16
2. I am a new creation 254
3. Immortal, invisible 327
4. The Spirit lives to set us free 664
5. And can it be that I should gain 33

### **Commentary Notes on Luke 13:1-9**

When awful things happen, it is a very human desire to think that the victims in some way “brought it on themselves”! Any disaster can thus be sort of explained away, and the horror becomes lessened and explicable. The people who had been talking to Jesus about this macabre incident of the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mixed with their sacrifices were clearly troubled and thinking along those lines. How could such terrible things happen to good Jews ? Had the Galileans brought it on themselves? It is important to notice that Jesus answers with a firm negative. No, the Galileans did not suffer because they were more sinful than average. Jesus was definite that suffering was not the result of God’s anger. He was deeply concerned about sin and spoke of the need for repentance. To Jesus the grim story about the slaughtered Galileans was a reminder of how swiftly the end of life could come, either at the hands of a vicious murderer like Pilate or as a result of a natural disaster like the collapsing of the Tower in Siloam. Jesus always stressed that all men and women were sinful and varied only in their capacity to acknowledge their sins and repent of them. The use of the phrase “you too will perish” suggests that without repentance the sinner will be lost. Lost in what way? Christians over the centuries have taken it to imply that the sinner might be lost in Hell. Jesus doesn’t expand on the idea in this passage, but the frightening idea of being cut off from God’s love is implied. If we read on we get a comforting sense of God’s patience with us sinners. Jesus told a parable about a fig tree . This tree was failing to produce any fruit and the vineyard owner was getting impatient – he gave orders to the vine dresser to cut it down. “Why should it take up the soil?” The vinedresser or worker asked his master for patience with the unproductive vine. “Give it one more year”. It isn’t very clear precisely who the characters in the little story are meant to be, but the thrust of the message is clear – that no matter how unproductive and unrepentant we are, God, through his Son, wants us to change. God gives us time and many opportunities to improve, change our lives, become better people. God isn’t seeking to catch us out, he never wants us to get lost or stray from Him. We make that choice, or series of choices ourselves. *Joan Crossley*

### **Meditation**

You may be interested to know that Liz Spavins the Youth worker at Putnoe has been introducing the children at Sunday school to GUS and TOM. The names stand for Give up Something and Take on More. Liz has been exploring why we might want to do this during the special season of Lent and what good it might be to ourselves and others. It is now quite standard for someone to give up something they love for the duration of Lent. While I am lost in admiration at anyone who will deprive themselves of chocolate for six weeks, I have to ask who is this benefiting? If you give up chocolate to lose weights then it only helps you. If you give up drink to get healthier and save

money, then again it is a very self-centred achievement. If you chose to give the money saved away, then that might be of more use. On the whole I think I like TOM better! Take Up Something this Lent which will make someone else happier – perhaps a charitable activity or giving a few extra minutes to someone who needs you. In my sermon today I shall be suggesting a time audit: looking at our lives to see if we are really spending them the way we should or could. Perhaps this Lenten decisions could replace some other, less useful activity?  
Joan Crossley

**General Synod Report.** I spent the first four days of last week at General Synod, which met this time in London. The media was focussed on two debates which were concerned with the role of homosexuals within the church. There was a motion which wanted gay people to feel a greater sense of welcome and inclusion in the church “at all levels”. Since this last phrase might be taken to mean that the way might be clear for an openly practising gay archbishop or bishop it was felt right by the House of Bishops to amend the motion. The motion was modified to be welcoming to homosexual people and “listening” while not being too specific about their roles within the clergy. The other sexuality based debate was about the recent introduction of Civil Partnerships and the impact that had had upon the institution of marriage. Neither debate led to the kind of “unholy row” that the tabloids had been proclaiming imminent but the very conflicting views of Synod members on this topic was painfully clear during the debate.

While the media were looking at us, we were looking at the media! A group of Synod members had been appointed to look at standards in the media and their work was discussed. There were many amusing anecdotes about the power of the press as well as some very disapproving speeches about the misuse of that power. Synod discussed clergy pensions, the renewing of the Trident weapons system as well as Fresh Expressions. For me the highlight of the week was the debate about the prison service. As well as a very intelligent, thoughtful and compassionate presentation from the Director General of the Prison Service, there were many contributions from members of Synod. Christians are taking to heart their duty to succour and visit the imprisoned and are involved at all levels and in many roles. The informed and reasoned quality of the debate and the practical engagement of many Synod members was a great encouragement to me, and I hope to you. Joan

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

Thanks be that we are never fully grown. Each day, each month, each year gives time to be regenerated. God of creation and recreation, you planted in us the seeds of life and growth and challenged us to effort and to energy that they might grow in us. Enabling God, by your continuing challenge may we still grow in vision and in use of our gifts by your love and goodness enrich and deepen our commitment. By your gifts to those around us and the insights that we share, may we be instruments of your blessing to one another. Amen

O Lord, thou knowest how busy I must be this day. If I forget thee, do not thou forget me.  
Amen. *Jacob Astley*

Collect for Lent 3 Jesus our brother, you followed the necessary path and were broken on our behalf. May we neither cling to our pain where it is futile, nor refuse to embrace the cosy when it is required of us: that in losing ourselves for your sake, we may be brought to new life.  
Amen

Knit my soul to your own, O Christ, so that I may never be separated from you. Only in you am I a person fully alive. Only in your light can I see and only in your strength can I pursue my way. To you I come, O wisdom without end. In you I rest, O mercy without limit. To you I give all praise, O crown of all majesty. Amen *Mechtild of Magdeburg, 1210-80*

**The Lent course** will take place at Putnoe 7.30 for 8 start. Finishes at 9pm

**14 March Professor Paul Crossley**

Images of heaven and hell in literature

**21 March Rev Dr Joan Crossley**

Images of heaven and hell in art

**Lent Course Notes.** Notes to accompany the first Lent Course Heaven and Hell—Biblical perspective by Charles Royden and Prof. Paul Crossley can be downloaded from the church website or ordered from the church office.

**Wine Bluffs for Wine Buffs.** 17 March at Putnoe Heights 7.30. An evening of wine tasting and food. In aid of NSPCC and Church funds. Tickets £12.50 now available from Church Office/Jenny Emsley.360397

**BEH** Network District Day on 14th March from 11am to 3pm at Bishops Stortford Methodist Church, South Street. See poster in foyer. District Craft Day on 31st March at Priory Methodist Church from 10am to 4.15pm. Places to be booked by 12th March please. Further details and booking form from Pam Seymour. Tel: 305695

**Help Please!** I need to collect plastic sleeving, such as that which brings catalogues and magazines through the post, for a Guide Project I am launching after Easter. Any size will be useable, especially if cut open, not torn and brought it to me flat not folded! I need to collect about 1000 sleeves so any help you can give will be appreciated. I'll let you know when I have sufficient! Marion Prior

**St. Mark's Church Pre-School** are collecting Sainsbury's Active Kids Vouchers. Please ask friends and family if they could collect them for Pre-School and leave them at the office. Helen

**Goldington and Putnoe Children's Centre** now has an office at Putnoe Heights Church and will be taking over the management of the Toddlers Playtime group in April. Would you like to support the centre as a Trustee? They are looking for individuals with varied business experience. Meetings are held monthly with all expenses paid and training opportunities are available. Please contact Linda Hoar 782717.

**Line Dancing at St Mark's.** Taster sessions for both beginners and improvers 9,16 March. Lessons begin 20 April. Further information contact Christine Rushton 01234 782360.

**Good Friday Special** Putnoe Heights 6 April 12.15—1.30 Easter Craft activities, the Easter Story & refreshments. Last year this event attracted 100 children & their carers if you can help out in any please contact Liz. Make an Easter garden in an ice cream tub competition. Open to all individuals & family groups. Judging at the Good Friday special. Please save empty margarine tubs & empty litre size milk bottles for Easter children's projects.

**Luncheon Club** which meets fortnightly at Putnoe Heights urgently needs a volunteer driver to transport elderly folk to & from their homes. If you can help please ring Putnoe Church Centre 365630.

**Opening of new centre** Thank you to all who helped with the opening of the new centre at St Mark's on Friday. It was encouraging and great to welcome so many friends.

**TNT** meets again Sunday 11 March 6pm at St Marks for computer games. Joan.



Emma  
Strangwick  
organiser of  
Chat and Play

**Chat and Play at St Mark's** Thursdays 9.45 – 11.30am. Come and join this friendly, newly formed group for the under 5's. As well as a big play area there are craft and musical activities with stories and rhymes for the children and an opportunity for parents and carers to chat and enjoy some refreshments. Everyone is Welcome. £1.50 for the first child and 50p for each extra child

over 2 years. For further information contact St Mark's Office, 342613 or Emma Strangwick 211070.

Why not stay on for our popular Storybox at 12 noon. St Mark's welcome the under 5's and their carers for a sandwich lunch followed by a Bible Story, singing and activities. For more information contact Emma on 211070.



**Putnoe Heights Church**  
 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Weekend  
 16-17<sup>th</sup> June, 2007  
 Putnoe Heights Church was  
 opened and dedicated in June  
 1957.

A weekend of celebration is being planned to include activities for families and a concert by Kempston Musical Society on Saturday with special services, including a Circuit service followed by a meal on Sunday. We would like to invite past members who have moved away so, if you are in touch with anyone who might be interested, please pass their names and details to Alan Cooper. Throughout the weekend, the church will be open with a display of 50 years of church history. If you have any photographs of weddings, christening or other events that we might borrow please contact Gerry Allen. Please help us to make the weekend a success.

**St Albans to Taize 2007.** Join this year's pilgrimage 21st - 30th July. If you are aged between 15 & 30 and would like to take part come along to a meeting on Saturday 31st March at Christ Church, Goldington Road, Bedford at 7.30pm.

**Concert** by Chapel Choir of Christ's College, Cambridge. Saturday 17 March at 7pm in St. Paul's Church, Bedford. Programme to include Scarlatti's Stabat Mater. Tickets £8 from : Heather Turnham 343477, /Central Box Office, /Classic Music, Lime St ,Bedford..

**The Family and friends of Derrick Stoneham** invite you to join them for afternoon tea to help Derrick celebrate his 90th birthday. The party will be held in Putnoe Heights large hall on Saturday March 24th from 2.30pm. All will be welcome.

**Congratulations** The Partnership has cause for celebration this weekend as Chloe Coppenhall was awarded first place and Sarah Morse second place in the Bible Reading Class at the Bedfordshire Festival. Our Congratulations to you both. Well Done!

**Faith in Action** –Extract from the letter of acknowledgement displayed in the Welcome Area. 'Thank you for the very generous cheque for £500 from Putnoe Heights Church. We are able to backdate your kind gift so it will have been used for food and cholera treatments as requested, releasing funds now to send out for seed in our next transfer. Please thank everyone on our behalf for their swift, generous and practical response to the needs of those in the Lower Shire. We appreciate their concern immensely.

**Bunyan Meeting Free Church** owns a 2 bedroom self-contained flat in Waterloo Road and are looking for a new tenant from March/ April onwards. Their preference is for a church worker/minister, but that is not a requirement. If you are interested, please contact the Secretary to the Trustees, Peter Barratt (Tel: 01234 317232).

**Thank you Claire and Richard** for hosting the Putnoe Heights coffee morning on Saturday

**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.

**Leslie Stephen George Laws**

*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 Clifford Collier** will take place at Bedford Crematorium on Tuesday 20th March 2007 at 10.45 am. Crossley

**The Funeral of Mrs Field** will take place at St Mark's Chapel on Friday 23 March at 11.00am. Royden