



Methodist
Church

Partnership News

12 February 2006

Third Sunday before Lent

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



Church of
England

Church Services Today

8.30 Holy Communion both churches
9.30am St Mark's Church - -- Morning Worship
 Preacher - Mr Paul Fricker
 Leadership Team - Mrs Janet Day
 Intercessions - Mr John Tatman
11.00am Putnoe Heights -Morning Worship
 Preacher -Mr Paul Fricker
 Leadership Team - Mr Dave Allen
 Intercessions - Mrs Claire Peck

19 February 2006

8.30 Service of Holy Communion Both churches
9.30am St Mark's Church - Holy Communion
 Preacher - Revd Dr Sam Cappleman
 Leadership - Mrs Delia Shephard
 Intercessions - Mrs Pat Leusby
11.00am Putnoe Heights - Holy Communion
 Preacher - Revd Dr Sam Cappleman
 Leadership Team - Mrs Jenny Emsley
 Intercessions - Ministers

Reading 1 : Proverbs 8: 1& 22-31
Reading 2 Colossians 1:15-20
Reading 3 : John 1: 1-14

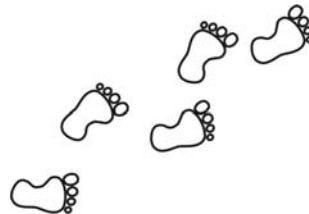
Thank You

The flowers at Putnoe Heights Church this week have been given by Deborah Wallace and Family in loving memory of Billy Wallace.

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 God forasmuch as without you we are not able to please you; mercifully grant that your Holy Spirit may in all things, direct and rule our hearts; through Jesus Christ our lord.
 Amen *Methodist Worship*



Footprints Walk Today
 Massey's Marvellous Mystery Tour. Meet at the junction of Larkway & Brickhill Drive for a 2 1/2 mile walk at 2.00pm
 Alan & Margaret 327219.

Contact Details

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

The Reverend Neil Bramble-Chapman BA, CTM
 (Day off Friday)
 12 Hartop Close, Putnoe. MK41 8HE
 326643 Mobile -07917 356062 Minister@ThisisChurch.com

The Reverend Dr. Joan Crossley (Day off Friday)
 30 Cutcliffe Grove, Bedford. MK40 4DD.
 Home 344536 Crossley@Thisischurch.com

The Reverend Charles Royden (Day off Thursday)
 The Vicarage, Calder Rise. MK41 7UY
 309175 Mobile 07973 113861 Vicar@ThisisChurch.com

Partnership Youth and Children's Worker
 Mrs Liz Spavins 302349 youth@thisischurch.com

For Data Protection Purposes

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

Partnership Pastoral Support Team Co-Ordinator & Churchyards Administrator

Mrs Mary Stubbs 406784 Mary@Thisischurch.com
Please inform us if you know of anyone who is ill, bereaved, housebound, requires a visit, home communion or counselling services. Please also ask us if you would like a home visit for any reason.

Putnoe Heights Church Centre

Open 9am - 12 noon Monday & Friday
9am - 5pm Tuesday/Wednesday & Thursday
Tel/fax & Answering Service 365630 putnoe@thisischurch.com
Centre Manager Mr Barry Snelson 365630
Leadership Team - Mrs Sue Allen 407264
Treasurer Mrs Kathryn Morse 216428
 Treasurerph@Thisischurch.com
Gift Aid Administrator - Mr John Hitt 404186
Junior Church Co-ordinator - Mrs Liz Spavins 302349

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 - Mr Ian Farthing 210892
Treasurer - Mr John Day 295592 treasurer@thisischurch.com
Gift Aid Administrator Mr Jim Williams 360605

Partnership News is also archived on our church website
www.ThisisChurch.com

Regular Weekly Activities - A Guide To Our Churches

Monday

- 9.30 - 12.00 pm Mon-Fri Putnoe Heights Pre-school** Mrs Janet Smith 326685
- 9.30 - 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 story, singing and activities. Lots of fun, donations. Contact Liz on 01234 302349
- 4pm Story Box Plus** at St. Marks for 4 -11 year olds meet at 3.30. for refreshments & games, then till 5pm make props, sing & rehearse a short play to perform in church the 1st Sunday of each month. Lots of fun. Free. Contact Liz 302349
- 4.15pm - Rosemary Conley Diet & Fitness.** Miriam Adcock 01908 565044
- 4.15 - 5.45pm 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. Penny Fulham 406045
- 7.30pm Sugarcraft Guild** meets first Monday every month at St. Mark's Mrs Pauline Parrott 768419
- 7.15 m Guides** -St. Mark's. Mrs Gill Lake 218091
- 7.15pm Yoga** at Putnoe Heights Church. Contact Karen Simpson 244970
- 7.30pm Creative Needles** at Putnoe Heights. Jacky Hayward 307648. New members welcome.
- 7.30pm Whist Drive** - At St Mark's each month the next 20 February Mrs. Judith Stanton. 823313
- 7.30pm Housegroup** 30 The Ridgeway. The home of Eddy & Margaret Peck 267567.
- 8.00pm 'Get Fit, Stay Fit'** at Putnoe Heights. Mrs Diane Field 404976

Tuesday

- 9.30am Candlewicking** (Needlework) at Putnoe Heights. Mrs Olive Shotbolt 267203
- 10.00am Keep Fit** at Putnoe Heights. Mrs Stileman 822230
- 1.30-3pm Toddlers Playtime** at Putnoe Heights. Geraldine Skeel 406828
- 9.30am -12.30 & 4 - 9pm Slimming World** at St. Mark's. Val Careless 345213.
- 2.00pm Library Walk W.I.** at Putnoe Heights meets monthly. Contact Morag Tompkins 356895
- 2 - 5pm Police Surgery.** St Mark's Foyer.
- 2.15pm Putnoe Heights Women's Fellowship** - Next meeting 14 February Betty Wyatt 350188.
- 2.15pm Putnoe Heights Men's Fellowship.** Next meeting 14 February Joining with Women's Fellowship. Lawrence 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. Mary Stubbs 406784.
- 3.45 - 5.30pm Stars School of Dance.** Esther Sancto 272517 or 07917 0582468.
- 6.30 - 7.30pm Yoga** at Putnoe Heights. Rachel Leontyne 783129
- 6.45pm Guides** at Putnoe Heights. Emma Holloway 293792
- 7.00 - 8.00 pm Keep Fit** at St. Mark's. Mrs Jan Gregory 214107.
- 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.at 7.45pm Next meeting 21st February Talk about Orient Express. Madge Walsh 359088
- 8.30-9.30pm St. Mark's - Qi Gong** (Self help healing group) - Mr F Steele 355937

Wednesday

- 9.30am Childminding Support Group** at Putnoe Heights. Mrs S Longman 313949
- 9.30am - Body Control Pilates.** 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
- Luncheon Club** at Putnoe Heights fortnightly. Next meeting 22 February 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.** Mrs Webster 856966
- 4.15pm - Kumon Maths** at Putnoe Heights Ms Raksha Mistry 01908 392698
- 6.00pm Self Defence at Putnoe** Mr James 07711 687449
- 6.00 pm Brownies** at St Mark's. Mrs Carol Warden 219731
- 7.00pm Bunyan Bridge** at St. Mark's. Brian Sallows 407725
- 7.00pm Archaeological & Local History Society** meets monthly at Putnoe Heights. Next meeting . Sylvia Woods 365095
- 7pm Putnoe Guild** meets monthly at Putnoe Heights. Janice Loxley 347073
- 7.45pm Kick Boxing** Junior classes at St Mark's. Contact Mr James 07711687449 or 07810234890
- 7.45pm Badminton Club** at Putnoe Heights - all welcome. Ken Marriott 214867

8.45-9.45pm St. Mark's - Qi Gong (Self help healing group) starting Mr F Steele 355937

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

1.00pm - 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 Bible story, singing and activities. Lots of fun, donations. Contact Liz Spavins on 1234 302349

1.30-3pm Toddler Playtime at Putnoe Heights. Geraldine Skeel 406828

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

2pm - Putnoe Bridge Club. Gerald Palmer 345991

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

2pm U3A Indoor Games at Putnoe Heights. Radmila Dancer 404811

4.00 Story box Plus at Putnoe Heights for 4-11 year old. Meet at 3.30 for refreshments & games. Then till 5pm make props, sing & rehearse a short play to perform in church on the 1st Sunday of each month Lots of fun .Free. 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 Heights. Helga Nash 218521

7.00pm Club 2000 at Putnoe Mrs M White 404992

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

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

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

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

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

8.00 - 10pm Bedford Writers Circle meets at St Mark's 3 Thursday each month. 1 Thursday as from January 2006 Mr John Broadhouse 740271

Friday

9.30am U3A Exercise at Putnoe Heights. Carole Maunder 301325

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 Heights. Contact Esther Sancto 272517 or 07917 582468

6pm Self Defence at Putnoe. Mr James 0771 687449 or 07810 234890

7. 30pm Bibleway Young Peoples meeting Contact Pastor Tarr 360188

Saturday

9.30 - 11.30am Stars School of Dance at Putnoe Heights. Contact Esther Sancto 272517 or 07917 582468

10.00am - 1.00pm Theatre Train at St Mark's - dancing acting, singing. - Kate Randle 01234 782414

2.30pm Calligraphy Group at Putnoe Heights. Meets monthly next meeting. Philip Jones 350295

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 - 4pm Tabernacle of Truth Church at Putnoe Heights - Worship. Contact Revd. Tarr 360188 Mob. 07866775515 **6.00pm TNT (The Nearly Teens)** meet fortnightly at Putnoe Heights for various fun activities. Contact Putnoe Office 365630

Diary Dates

St Mark's Church Council 14 June, 11 October
Circuit Meeting 16 March 2006

St Mark's Leadership Team - 21 February, 24 April, 6 June, 12 September

Putnoe Heights Leadership Team - 20 February, 2 Sunningdale Walk

St Mark's Church Management Meeting

All meetings to start 7.00pm

Putnoe Heights Management - 27 Feb, 15 May, 17 July 2006

Putnoe Church Council 12 June, 9 October

Pastoral Group Meeting - 6 February 2006 2.00pm
Churchyard Committee -

Putnoe Heights Mission Group Meeting-

Partnership Council - 19 September

Brickhill Parish Council - 23 February, 23 March, 27 April,

Joint Deanery Circuit

Annual Congregational Meeting 7 May 2006

Putnoe Heights Children & Youth - 8 Feb, 26 April, 28 June

Calendar dates appear also on our church website www.ThisChurch.com.

Please advise St Mark's Church Office of the dates of your meetings.

Bible Notes

Third Sunday before Lent

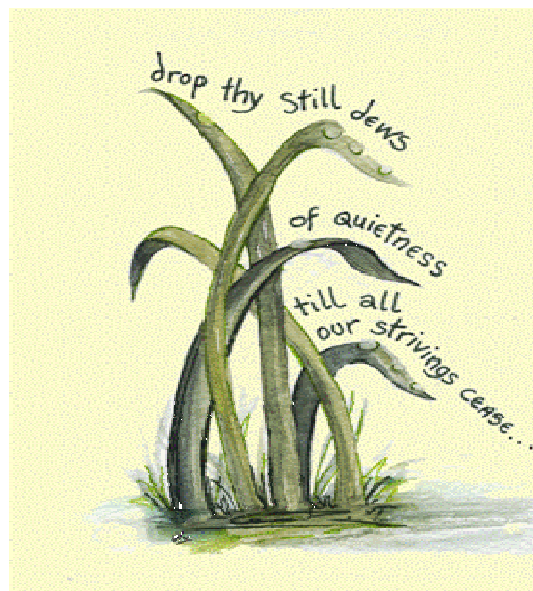
Year B

Verse of Scripture Psalm 30:10

Hear, O LORD, and be merciful to me; O LORD, be my help." You turned my wailing into dancing; you removed my sackcloth and clothed me with joy, that my heart may sing to you and not be silent. O LORD my God, I will give you thanks forever.

A Collect Prayer - Before we read we pray

Eternal God, whose Son went among the crowds and brought healing with his touch: help us to show his love, in your Church as we gather together, and by our lives as they are transformed into the image of Christ our Lord. Amen. *Common Worship - Shorter Form*



First Reading - 2 Kings 5: 1-14

Now Naaman was commander of the army of the king of Aram. He was a great man in the sight of his master and highly regarded, because through him the LORD had given victory to Aram. He was a valiant soldier, but he had leprosy. Now bands from Aram had gone out and had taken captive a young girl from Israel, and she served Naaman's wife. She said to her mistress, "If only my master would see the prophet who is in Samaria! He would cure him of his leprosy." Naaman went to his master and told him what the girl from Israel had said. "By all means, go," the king of Aram replied. "I will send a letter to the king of Israel." So Naaman left, taking with him ten talents of silver, six thousand shekels of gold and ten sets of clothing. The letter that he took to the king of Israel read: "With this letter I am sending my servant Naaman to you so that you may cure him of his leprosy."

As soon as the king of Israel read the letter, he tore his robes and said, "Am I God? Can I kill and bring back to life? Why does this fellow send someone to me to be cured of his leprosy? See how he is trying to pick a quarrel with me!" When Elisha the man of God heard that the king of Israel had torn his robes, he sent him this message: "Why have you torn your robes? Have the man come to me and he will know that there is a prophet in Israel." So Naaman went with his horses and chariots and stopped at the door of Elisha's house. Elisha sent a messenger to say to him, "Go, wash yourself seven times in the Jordan, and your flesh will be restored and you will be cleansed." But Naaman went away angry and said, "I thought that he would surely come out to me and stand and call on the name of the LORD his God, wave his hand over the spot and cure me of my leprosy. Are not Abana and Pharpar, the rivers of Damascus, better than any of the waters of Israel? Couldn't I wash in them and be cleansed?" So he turned and went off in a rage.

Naaman's servants went to him and said, "My father, if the prophet had told you to do some great thing, would you not have done it? How much more, then, when he tells you, 'Wash and be cleansed!'" So he went down and dipped himself in the Jordan seven times, as the man of God had told him, and his flesh was restored and became clean like that of a young boy.

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

Second Reading - 1 Corinthians 9: 24-27

Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one gets the prize? Run in such a way as to get the prize. Everyone who competes in the games goes into strict training. They do it to get a crown that will not last; but we do it to get a crown that will last forever. Therefore I do not run like a man running aimlessly; I do not fight like a man beating the air. No, I beat my body and make it my slave so that after I have preached to others, I myself will not be disqualified for the prize.

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

Third Reading - Mark 1: 40-45

A man with leprosy came to him and begged him on his knees, "If you are willing, you can make me clean." Filled with compassion, Jesus reached out his hand and touched the man. "I am willing," he said. "Be clean!" Immediately the leprosy left him and he was cured. Jesus sent him away at once with a strong warning: "See that you don't tell this to anyone. But go, show yourself to the priest and offer the sacrifices that Moses commanded for your cleansing, as a testimony to them." Instead he went out and began to talk freely, spreading the news. As a result, Jesus could no longer enter a town openly but stayed outside in lonely places. Yet the people still came to him from everywhere. (Reader : This is the word of the Lord. **All: Thanks be to God**)

Post Communion Prayer

Merciful Father, who gave Jesus Christ to be for us the bread of life, that those who come to him should never hunger: draw us to the Lord in faith and love, that we may eat and drink with him at his table in the kingdom, where he is alive and reigns, now and for ever. Amen

Commentary

For many people the news that they have Cancer is completely horrific, and many who have never been given such news still regard the prospect with total fear. Thankfully, as a result of medical progress, as each year goes by more and more people discover that Cancer is not necessarily a death sentence. Many people recover completely and go on to lead full and happy lives. Many more people are able to get the condition under control, they live gratefully, treasuring each day, often with a fresh understanding of the privilege of simply being able to be alive. They are often remarkable living miracles and a challenge to others who grumble endlessly about their aches and pains, as if life was a burden only to be endured before the blessed release. Make no mistake the battle against to Cancer, which has robbed so many families of their loved ones must be waged with all of our resources. However, thankfully there is now hope and Cancer is not the killer that it was.

At the time of Jesus there was a disease which struck equal terror into the hearts of everybody, leprosy. When Jesus sent out his disciples, he told them to, 'heal the sick and cleanse lepers.' This was because leprosy was a scourge, a most dreadful thing, it reduced people to the most appalling circumstances, a living hell. The skin was attacked so that the person became physically repulsive, then mental capacity was gradually destroyed. Parts of the body could literally drop off and finally, perhaps after twenty or thirty years there was a gruesome death without the benefits of pain control. To compound the situation it was believed that all of this was a punishment inflicted by God, such people were cursed by God. Lepers were banished from their families and endured a living death.

We need to understand how horrific it all was to appreciate what Jesus did when he reached out to the Leper. In simply talking to the man Jesus was being remarkably compassionate, but Jesus did so much more than that, he touched the man and demonstrated to us that there is nobody beyond the reach of the hand of God. God does not inflict such dreadful torture, it is we humans who are quick to attribute blame. We might look back on the treatment of lepers today and feel astonished at the lack of humanity shown to sufferers and the willingness to condemn and attribute their disease to divine punishment. Yet today many people still consider illness to be retribution visited upon the afflicted by a righteous God as a punishment for their sin. Dr Veronica Moss reminded us recently of the prejudice which remains around the world against those who suffer from HIV/Aids.

We do well today to remember all of this, we have not come that far in 2,000 years. Society can still often be full of superstition, ignorance and fear. Our Lord shows us a different way and calls us to reach out to those whom society prefers to place on the margins. It can be costly and we should not be surprised, ultimately it cost Jesus his life. *Charles Royden*

Hymns (Please distribute Mission Praise and Morning Worship.)

1. Guide me O 201
2. Come on and celebrate 99
3. Lord for the years 428
3. Come let us sing 94
4. Come and sing the praise of Jesus 101

Prayers for Sunday and the week ahead.

O good Jesus, radiant in your glory and tender in your compassion, cherish me, I pray, as one of your family; embrace me as your lover; rule me as your subject and welcome me as your friend, now and for ever. Amen *Hildegard of Bingen, 1098-1179*

O consuming fire, O Spirit of love, O Word incarnate burn in my heart, purge my soul and dwell within me, now and for ever. Amen *Elizabeth of Schonau, d.1184*

O Lord Jesus Christ, Son of the Living God, we pray thee to set thy passion, cross and death between thy judgement and our souls, now and I the hour of our death. Vouchsafe to grant mercy and grace to the living, rest to the dead, to thy holy church peace and concord, and to us sinners everlasting life and glory; for thou art alive and reignest, with the father and the Holy Spirit, one God for ever and ever. Amen.

Almighty God, who alone can bring order to the unruly wills and passions of sinful humanity: give your people grace so to love what you command and to desire what you promise, that, among the many changes of this world, our hearts may surely there be fixed where true joys are to be found; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

Almighty God, who alone can bring order to the unruly wills and passions of sinful humanity: give your people grace so to love what you command and to desire what you promise, that, among the many changes of this world, our hearts may surely there be fixed where true joys are to be found; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Common Worship*

Meditation

We invite you to join the Pope and Christians throughout the world in reflecting on his prayer intentions for this month: Reflection for the month - Truth and Justice

In 1964, Dom Helder Camara was made bishop of Olinda and Recife in Northeast Brazil, the poorest and least developed region of the country. In a larger sense, he was the bishop of all those everywhere who shared his deep conviction that fostering truth and justice can overcome human tragedies. One such tragedy is the trafficking of human beings. Men, women and children are daily being sold into various forms of slavery, not only in the Developing World, but in Western society as well.

Dom Helder's prayer is apt for our time:

'Father, your Spirit told us through the mouth of Paul that the whole earth and we too, as your children, groan in the pains of a birth! It is easy, Lord, to grasp and affirm this. For there are passages so difficult and hours so filled with anguish that the image really applies: they are labour pains! Something is being born. Who knows? A world in which men and women can breathe, a more just, a more human world!'

So, we pray this month that the international community recognizes its duty to put an end to human trafficking.



News, Views and Information

Flower arranging We have recently lost two of our flower arranging team at St Mark's & urgently need to find new people to take their places. If you'd like to 'have a go', or discuss what is involved please have a word with any of the team members. We will happily have shadowing or arrange practical sessions. Now is not the time to be hiding your lights under bushels! Contact Marion 303254

Half Term Storybox & Storybox Plus Arrangements Storybox for preschoolers will run at Putnoe on Monday 13 February & St. Mark's on Thursday 16 February between 12 & 1. Drinks will be provided but please bring your own packed lunch. Storybox Plus for the 4—10 year age group will run at Putnoe on Monday 13 February & St. Mark's on 16 February between 1.15 & 2.45. for craft, acting, singing & games with a Bible based theme. Light refreshments provided. If you would be interested in lending a hand please see Liz..

Footprints Sunday 12 February at 2pm Massey's Marvellous Mystery Tour. Meet at the junction of Larkway & Brickhill Drive for a 2 1/2 mile walk, finishing at the junction of St. John's Street & Kingsway. Further details Alan & Margaret 327219.

Coffee Morning Saturday 11 February 10—12noon at 14 Flint Way, to raise money to set up a family mat & basket making business in Malawi. A Faith in Action Project. Sylvia Cohen 343424.

Mildmay Fundraising Event at St. Mark's Church on Friday 24 February at 7.30pm. Student Keyboard Ensemble performing music from the 60's. Tickets £3 Available from St. Mark's Office or see Janet Day or Ian Farthing. Donation of raffle prizes would be appreciated.

St. Mark's Church Preschool are saving Sainsbury's Active Kids 06 vouchers & would like your help. If you have any vouchers please could you bring them to the office. Thank you in advance Helen Harpin Head of Preschool.

In April Tuesday Club are having a talk about East Anglian Air Ambulance Service. This organisation can make use of old or unwanted Mobile phones. If you have any please take them to St. Mark's or Putnoe Heights Church Office.

Ebay. 'One man's rubbish is another man's treasure' Do you have something to sell in your attic or garage? Let me advertise it for you on Ebay for auction. Anything from a cup and saucer to a motor car. Items can even be for spares or repair. Ebay auctions are advertised worldwide, all you pay for is a small selling fee and 15% of the sale price

towards packing. If your items do not sell, then all you pay is the advertising fee which includes a colour photo. Call Dave or Janet 01234 401184 Mobile 07788 862609

Thank you to everyone who has supported our mission project with Mildmay. We will continue this project until the end of February so there's still time to contribute as an individual or as a group if you haven't done so far. The total we have raised so far is around £2500 which is truly amazing. Let's see what we can do to increase this total and further relieve the lives of adults and children suffering from the effects of HIV AIDS. Sam

Holy Communion will be held at William Harpur House at 10.00am on the first Monday of every month in the Main Lounge. Members of the community are very welcome to attend.

Volunteer decorators required at Putnoe Heights. We shall be decorating Meeting Room 3 on Monday 20 February hoping to finish on Wednesday 22 February, starting at 8.30 am. Offers of help please to Alan Cooper or Sue Allen.

Brickhill Community Clean Up Come and join us on Saturday 25 February 10am to 12 noon. Meet near Brickhill Community Centre. Equipment will be provided, ring Brickhill Parish Council 328365 for more information or just turn up to help with litter picking. Together we can make a difference.

Mary Mother of Nowhere—a powerful evocation of Mary and her son Jesus portrayed by an actress from Bethlehem. Tanushka Marah gives a magnificent performance. Suitable for audiences of 16 and over. Bowen West theatre, Saturday 4 March at 8pm. Followed by a free, optional post-show discussion chaired by Revd Stephen Heap of the De Montford University Chaplaincy. To book a seat for the show contact the theatre 01234 219333. Tickets are £10 and £7 with concessions at £8 and £5.

Storybox at St Marks Thursday lunchtime We are looking for a least one more pair to help out with the catering approximately once every 5/6 weeks. If you would like to join us please speak to Liz.

Storybox Plus at Putnoe Thursday 3.30 – 5.00 Now that this group has grown to 14 regular energetic children we are looking for some more adult help if you feel you can lend a hand once a month please speak to Liz

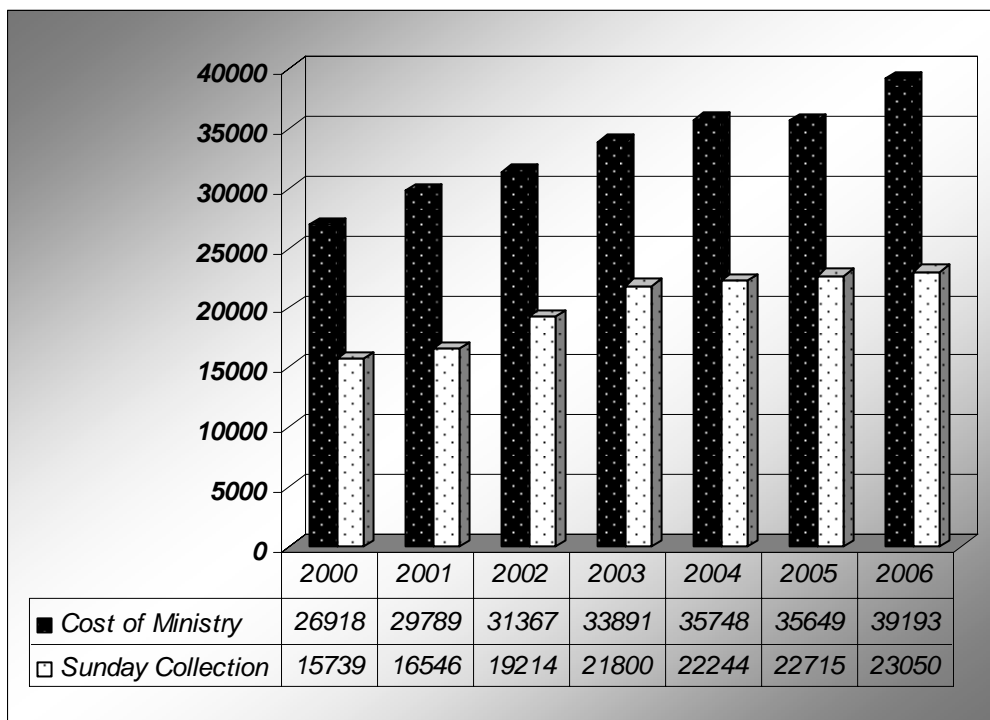
Ash Wednesday Service at 7.30pm in St Mark's Chapel. Holy Communion with imposition of ashes.

How much does it cost ? A Financial update from St Mark's

Thankfully, at St Mark's we are managing to pay our bills. We do this through careful control of our expenditure and a programme of community use which exploits our assets to maximise return on our premises. This programme is supported by a volunteer army which enables us to deliver unrivalled services every day. However as the cost of ministry increases it is important for us as a congregation to be aware of the need to try and ensure that our offerings keep pace with the cost of maintaining our Christian ministry. The graph shown below illustrates that we are struggling to pay for the cost of ministry. Ministry costs are made up of the Anglican Quota and Methodist Assessment, other ministry expenses and a small proportion of the utility costs. All of these costs rise each year and we have to be mindful of the need to increase our giving to keep pace. This morning our treasurer John Day will make a short presentation to the congregation to explain the situation. Please feel free to speak with John after the service for further information, his contact details are on the front of Partnership News. If you are a tax payer please also speak with Jim Williams if you have not yet completed a gift aid declaration.

Gift Aid is free money which the government encourages us to claim as a contribution from them when a tax payer gives money to charity.

We are not asking people who already make sacrifices to give more than they can afford. However it is important that we are all aware that we do not currently pay for the cost of our ministers and where possible we do encourage you to give to the church to enable us to afford our continued work.



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.

Alfred Ernest Belcher
Horace Woods
Jean Cowell

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



Rest in Peace

Forthcoming funerals to be taken by our Ministers

The funeral of Ann Valerie Brown will take place at Bedford Crematorium on Wednesday 15 February at 12.15 pm. *Crossley*

The funeral of Mr Joseph Cowie Jack will take place at Bedford Crematorium at 11.30am on Friday 17 February. *Royden*