



Methodist
Church

Partnership News

12th March 2006

Second Sunday of 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 - The Right Rev. Richard Inwood

Leadership Team - Mr Mike Cooper

Intercessions - Ministers

11.00am Putnoe Heights - Holy Communion with Confirmation

Preacher - The Right Rev. Richard Inwood

Leadership Team - Mrs Sue Allen

Intercessions -

19 March 2006

8.30 Service of Holy Communion

9.30am St Mark's Church - Holy Communion

Preacher - Revd Dr Joan Crossley

Leadership - Mrs Linda Parry

Intercessions - Mrs Margaret Appleton

11.00am Putnoe Heights - Morning Worship with Baptism

Preacher - Revd Dr Joan Crossley

Leadership Team - Mr Alan Cooper

Intercessions - Alan Bayliss

Reading 1 : Exodus 20: 1-17

Reading 2 : 1Corinthians 1:18-25

Reading 3 : John 2: 13-22

Thank You

The flowers at St. Marks this week are given by Linda and Edward Parry in memory of Edward's mum Elsie.



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

Prayer for Sunday

Look upon your servant, O Lord, weak in faith and asking for your strength; cold in heart, but seeking the warmth of your love; assailed by doubt but longing to trust you; abounding in sin, yet begging to be filled with your righteousness; now and for ever.
Amen *Martin Luther, 1483-1546*

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.

Mini-Strikers Sport for Children at Putnoe aged 2-4 years. Contact Andy Carey 01908 313751 or 07766 142754, or www.ministrikers.co.uk

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. Putnoe Heights. 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 March 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 March Miss E. Rowley Betty Wyatt 350188.

2.15pm Putnoe Heights Men's Fellowship. Next

meeting 28 March with Women's Fellowship 'More than books' Anthea Slack 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 at Putnoe Heights. 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

7.30pm Dog and Puppy Training at Putnoe Heights. Contact Lynn Southwell 07974 743240

7.45 pm Putnoe Heights Ladies Tuesday Club - Meets fortnightly.at 7.45pm Next meeting 7 March Slides of Canada. Madge Walsh 359088

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

Luncheon Club at Putnoe Heights fortnightly. Next meeting 22 March 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 - 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

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. 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 Radmila Dancer 404811

4.00 Story box Plus at Putnoe Heights for 4-11year 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 And it's 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 Helga Nash 218521

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

7pm Street Dance at Putnoe Heights. Contact Curtis Ritchie 349255 or 07984 525147

7.00pm Club 2000 at Putnoe Mrs M White 404992

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

7.30 - 9.30pm Embroiderer's 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 at 3 Little Headlands. Newcomers always welcome. Betty Wyatt 350188

8.00 - 10pm Bedford Writers Circle meets at St Mark's 1st Thursday each month. 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.

Contact Esther Sancto 272517 or 07917 582468

2pm U3A Gardening Group at Putnoe Heights.

6pm Self Defence at Putnoe. Mr James 0771

687449 or 07810 234890

6.00pm Maths Tuition at St Marks. Contact Ron Hodgson 771740

7.30pm Youth Club for age 13-18 at St Mark's

Church. Contact PCSO Rowland Gilbey 349179

Saturday

9.30 - 11.30am Stars School of Dance at Putnoe.

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. 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 Oct

Circuit Meeting 16 Mar 2006

St Mark's Leadership Team - 24 Apr, 6 June, 12 Sept

Putnoe Heights Leadership Team - 2 May

St Mark's Church Management Meeting

Putnoe Heights Management - 15 May, 17 July

Putnoe Church Council 12 June, 9 Oct

Pastoral Group Meeting -

Churchyard Committee -

Putnoe Heights Mission Group Meeting-

Partnership Council - 19 Sept

Brickhill Parish Council - 23 Mar, 27 Apr,

Deanery Meeting St Mary's Eucharist 22 June, 14 September, 16 November

Annual Congregational Meeting 7 May 2006

Putnoe Heights Children & Youth - 26 Apr, 28 June

Calendar dates appear on our church website www.ThisChurch.com. Please advise St Mark's Church Office of the dates of your meetings.

Second Sunday of Lent

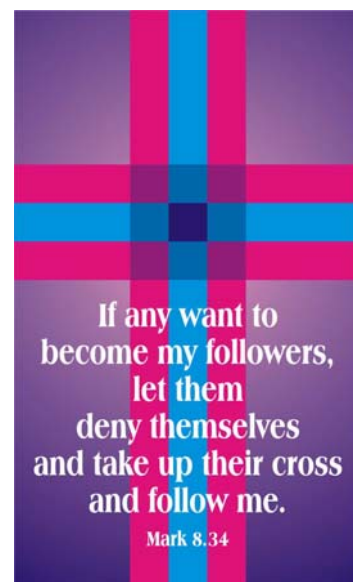
Year B

Verse of Scripture Mark Chapter 8

For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for me and for the gospel will save it. What good is it for a man to gain the whole world, yet forfeit his soul?

A Collect Prayer - Before we read we pray

Almighty God, you show to those who are in error the light of your truth, that they may return to the way of righteousness: grant to all those who are admitted into the fellowship of Christ's religion, that they may reject those things that are contrary to their profession, and follow all such things as are agreeable to the same; through our Lord Jesus Christ, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen. Common Worship



First Reading - Genesis 17: 1-7, 15-16

When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the LORD appeared to him and said, "I am God Almighty; walk before me and be blameless. I will confirm my covenant between me and you and will greatly increase your numbers." Abram fell facedown, and God said to him, "As for me, this is my covenant with you: You will be the father of many nations. No longer will you be called Abram; your name will be Abraham, for I have made you a father of many nations. I will make you very fruitful; I will make nations of you, and kings will come from you. I will establish my covenant as an everlasting covenant between me and you and your descendants after you for the generations to come, to be your God and the God of your descendants after you. God also said to Abraham, "As for Sarai your wife, you are no longer to call her Sarai; her name will be Sarah. I will bless her and will surely give you a son by her. I will bless her so that she will be the mother of nations; kings of peoples will come from her (Reader : This is the word of the Lord. **All: Thanks be to God**)

Second Reading - Romans 4: 13-25

" It was not through law that Abraham and his offspring received the promise that he would be heir of the world, but through the righteousness that comes by faith. For if those who live by law are heirs, faith has no value and the promise is worthless, because law brings wrath. And where there is no law there is no transgression. Therefore, the promise comes by faith, so that it may be by grace and may be guaranteed to all Abraham's offspring—not only to those who are of the law but also to those who are of the faith of Abraham. He is the father of us all. As it is written "I have made you a father of many nations." He is our father in the sight of God, in whom he believed—the God who gives life to the dead and calls things that are not as though they were. Against all hope, Abraham in hope believed and so became the father of many nations, just as it had been said to him, "So shall your offspring be." Without weakening in his faith, he faced the fact that his body was as good as dead—since he was about a hundred years old—and that Sarah's womb was also dead. Yet he did not waver through unbelief regarding the promise of God, but was strengthened in his faith and gave glory to God, being fully persuaded that God had power to do what he had promised. This is why "it was credited to him as righteousness." The words "it was credited to him" were written not for him alone, but also for us, to whom God will credit righteousness—for us who believe in him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead. He was delivered over to death for our sins and was raised to life for our justification.

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

Third Reading - Mark 8: 31-38

He then began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders, chief priests and teachers of the law, and that he must be killed and after three days rise

again. He spoke plainly about this, and Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him.

But when Jesus turned and looked at his disciples, he rebuked Peter. "Get behind me, Satan!" he said. "You do not have in mind the things of God, but the things of men." Then he called the crowd to him along with his disciples and said: "If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for me and for the gospel will save it. What good is it for a man to gain the whole world, yet forfeit his soul? Or what can a man give in exchange for his soul? If anyone is ashamed of me and my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, the Son of Man will be ashamed of him when he comes in his Father's glory with the holy angels."

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

Hymns **St Mark's** Please distribute Morning Worship and Mission Praise.

Putnoe Please distribute Confirmation and Mission Praise

1. 467 Morning has broken, 2. 128 Father God, 3. And did those feet (Partnership News and service sheet, 4. 31 Amazing Grace, 5. 486 Now thank we all our God

Post Communion Prayer

Almighty God, you see that we have no power of ourselves to help ourselves: keep us outwardly in our bodies, and inwardly in our souls; that we may be defended from all adversities which may happen to the body and from all evil thoughts which may assault and hurt the soul; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Commentary

Somebody once said that if we want to make God laugh all we need to do is to tell him our plans. The point being that our carefully formulated family and career paths seldom turn out the way we hope or expect. Human efforts to gain power and control over our lives are constantly the source of disappointment. People spend years of working drudgery preparing for happy retirement, then suddenly hear bad news from the doctor. In future it appears that the longed for retirement bliss will be blighted by the loss of pension funds, closed final salary schemes etc. Life is just so unfair, some couch potatoe smokes and drinks themselves into their 90's, whilst the calorie conscious jogger has a brain haemorrhage. People invest thousands in the education of children who 'drop-out,' whilst other neglectful parents turn out fantastic young adults. Marriages of many years suddenly become only unhappy memories when the long trusted partner walks off with somebody else. So in Mark's Gospel today Jesus cautions the disciples and us to be careful about what we plan for,

'Those who want to save their life will lose it,
and those who lose their life for my sake will save it.'

Not one of us has control over our lives, if we try to be Lord's of our own lives we will be faced with disappointment. The only way to realise fullness of life is to turn over our ambitions, our hopes and dreams to God. In a typical Gospel ambiguity, it is as we lose ourselves that we realise true fulfilment. Our human vision is too small, our plans not nearly as expansive as the ones which God has in store for us. Not one of us knows what life holds for us in the future, what fantastic amazing events and what terrible tragedies. Yet one thing is certain - the more we 'let go and let God,' the more freedom we will find and the more joy we will experience in this life of surprises. *Charles Royden*

Meditation

The glory of God is a human person fully alive. A human person fully alive is the glory of God. *St Irenaeus*

Prayers for Sunday and the week ahead.

Go before us, Lord, in all that we do, with your most gracious favour, and guide us with your continual help, that in all our works, begun, continued and ended in you, we may glorify your holy name, and finally by your mercy obtain everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

May the Lord teach you to know yourselves, that you may be truly penitent; so to repent that you may be truly forgiven; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit be among you and remain with you always. **Amen**

God of mercy, be swift to help us, as our lips pour forth your praise; and fill our lives with your peace, as we open our hearts to your word and wait for your salvation. **Amen**

From Anne Brown Dear Friends,

You may be wondering what has been happening to the plans for your new district, so I'm taking this opportunity to contact you.

During the summer a group of people worked together on a job description for the new Chair of District. The Methodist Council agreed my nomination at their October meeting and from November the BEH Transitional Policy Group has met monthly. Our initial tasks have been to make key appointments and determine where key district events will take place during the first year.

The inaugural service and my induction as Chair of District will take place at Chelmsford Cathedral on Thursday, August 31st at 8pm preceded by tea. As it's a Thursday we hope that the service will be over by 9.30pm.

The Autumn Synod is planned for Saturday, September 16th, probably in Baldock, Herts. Ministerial synod will be on Wednesday, March 21st at Potters Bar and the Spring Synod on Saturday, April 21st probably in North West Essex. Some people have been concerned that we will have long journeys to travel to synod in the new district. We have decided that we will try and meet centrally so that no one should have too far to travel.

A small group are looking at where we may base a District Centre. This is likely to be in East Herts or West Essex. When this is determined we will try and find a district manse in the area. I shall continue to live in Harpenden for the time being.

We have made the following key appointments:

Miss Kathy Burrell as Synod Secretary, Rev Andrew Hollins as Assistant Synod Secretary (Ministerial), Mr Peter Brooks as Treasurer, Mr Ian Hume as Property Secretary and Mr Martyn Holman as Grants Secretary.

Other appointments will be made in the coming months but we are anxious to work in new ways and work collaboratively with the East Anglia district as far as possible. For some activities we will work in county groups or circuit clusters to enable circuits to relate to and support each other locally. More work will be done in this area.

We recognise that we will need your help. If you would like to serve on vocational/pastoral groups or on business/strategy/policy meetings then I would be glad to hear from you. Some of you may be happy to continue serving the district and others may not have considered doing this before. Here is your opportunity to be part of district life in the early days when everything is new.

In the meantime I am enjoying visiting circuits in Essex (and parts of Herts), meeting the circuit leadership teams and getting to know people and places. Please pray for us during these exciting times as we look forward to being a new district.

Anne Brown Chair Designate Rev Anne Brown BSc, 37 Long Butlers, Harpenden, Hertfordshire AL5 1JF Tel: Home: 01582 760567; Office: 01582 460732; Email: anne.brown@districtnet.org.uk

Medical Supplies for Kisizzi

You may recall recently Hannah Cappleman spoke to us about her forthcoming trip to Kisizzi and her desire to take medical supplies to the hospital there when she works there in June and July this year. To raise money for these supplies Hannah will be attempting the National Three Peaks Walk which involves climbing the highest mountains in England, Scotland and Wales. It is generally accepted that to complete the challenge you must ascend and descend all three peaks, Scafell Pike, Ben Nevis and Snowdon respectively, within 24 hours.

If you would like to sponsor Hannah on this challenge or just make a donation to help raise money for medical supplies, please see Sam after the service today and he will have the sponsor forms with him.

Kisizzi is in south-west Uganda.. The Hospital was established in 1958 by the Ruanda Mission and subsequently handed over to the Church of Uganda, being now part of the ministry of the North Kigezi diocese based in Rukungiri. The hospital has never closed to patients since it started which is a testimony to God's faithful provision and has been supported by Putnoe and the Partnership for many years.

News, Views and Information

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 . 36 children came to Storybox and 15 to Storybox plus this week at St Mark's. This is fantastic news, please offer your support. *Charles Royden*

Putnoe Junior Church The "help" rota is now on the notice board in the welcome area. If you would like to join us one Sunday and see what we get up to please put your name down. We look forward to welcoming you. Thanks Liz and Sam

Congratulations to Helen Morse, James Beswick, Lucy Charman, Chloe Coppenhall and Rachel Nash who represented the Partnership last Sunday in the Bible Reading Class at the Bedford Festival of Music, Speech & Drama at Bedford Corn Exchange. Between them they achieved 3 Distinctions and 2 Merits. We are all very proud of them.

Storybox at both churches. If you would like to join either of our story telling teams after Easter please speak to Liz. You would be asked to tell a short, simple Bible story to under 5's approx. once every 2/3 months.

Footprints -Sunday 12th March 2.30pm. Meet at the Mowsbury Golf Club car park for a 4 mile circular walk in the Ravensden area. (The planned walk from Houghton Conquest has been postponed due to knee-deep mud on most of the route!) John and Sally Gunning (305925)

The new cupboards have now been installed in the chapel at St Mark's. It has been suggested that it would be good to replace the existing chairs in the chapel with new wooden chairs, similar to the wooden chairs used in the church at Putnoe. The chairs may be donated and inscribed in memory. If you think that this is something which you would like then please speak with a member of the Leadership Team. Since the new cupboards are now fitted we look forward to welcoming the new Diocesan RE resources as soon as possible. A special public opening and resources exhibition has been set for Wednesday 5 July from 3pm - 6pm.

Help The Lunch Club meets fortnightly at 12.30pm on Wednesday at Putnoe Heights is looking for an additional driver to provide transport for those who otherwise would be unable to attend. If you can help either regularly or on an occasional basis please contact Peta Pearson 356878.

Coffee Morning in aid of a blood pressure monitor for the patients of the Putnoe Surgery, Queens Drive. Friday 17 March 10am - 12noon at Putnoe Surgery.

A message from Mildmay

Dear Sam and all those who were involved in raising the £3800 for your two churches. We really are most grateful and appreciative of all that you have done and the support for our work - truly making a real difference to the lives of people living with HIV/AIDS. I am writing this in India (deep in Central Indian jungle - a tribal district!) and am not sure how well this e-mail will get through to you. Hope it does and that you will be able to share its contents with all who have contributed. With best wishes, Veronica



Lent Course 2006 Belief and Unbelief

Held on Sundays at St Mark's. at 4pm

12 March Rev'd Dr Joan Crossley
"God in close up"

19 March Rev'd Liz Macfarlane MA
"The Church fight back"

26 March Professor Paul Crossley
"Poetry and Doubt"

A Hymn For Sunday

And did those feet in ancient time
walk upon England's mountains green?
And was the holy lamb of God
on England's pleasant pastures seen?
And did the countenance divine
shine forth upon our clouded hills?
And was Jerusalem builded here
among those dark satanic mills?

Bring me my bow of burning gold!
Bring me my arrows of desire!
Bring me my spear! O clouds, unfold!
Bring me my chariot of fire!
I shall not cease from mental fight,
nor shall my sword sleep in my hand,
till we have built Jerusalem
in England's green and pleasant land.

*William Blake 1757-1827
Tune: Jerusalem (Parry)*

Network Spring Craft Day Saturday 6 May at Priory Methodist Church. Wide choice of workshops. More information & booking forms from Pam Seymour 305695 or Eleanor Markirdy 360271 book by 6 April.

London NW District Women's Network Celebration Service Saturday 20 May at 2.30 pm at West London Mission, Hinde Street, London.

"God's Story in Action" Bishop Richard and a team from the Diocese have put together a 6 week course including a DVD and course booklet. If you would like to order a copy for your group the cost will be £20. Please see Milly.

Bedford Town Concert Brass will be performing a selection of popular tunes at Putnoe Heights Church on Friday 24 March at 8pm. Tickets £6 Concessions £4 will be available at the door or from Roger Nicholls .(Tel: 01234 357268)

Peter's 70th birthday celebrations. Gwen and Peter Beswick wish to thank all those who attended, brought cards, good wishes and donation towards the work of St. Johns Hospice. Also those unable to attend but sent cards and contributions. A magnificent total of £244 was raised on the day for which we are very thankful. Gwen & Peter

Consultation. The Leadership Teams of Putnoe Heights and St Mark's are currently having a series of meetings with those concerned in seeking the way forward for our Ministerial Team when Neil leaves

this summer. If you would like to share any of your own thoughts please speak to any member of the Leadership Team

Thank you to all who gave so generously to the Sue Ryder Brooch appeal . We made £110.53 from St. Mark's & Putnoe. Sheila & John Whittemore

Holy Communion takes place at 10.00am on the first Monday of every month at Sir William Harpur House in Avon Drive, in the main lounge. All welcome. Next service 3 April

The Peace. I was spoken to recently by somebody who told me that they really didn't like the Peace at Holy Communion and found it intrusive. Following that I read the following advice given to Ministers as to how they should start the service today.

"As people enter church, a group of stewards lead them by a complicated path to a seat they perhaps would not normally use, separating family members if possible. Warn the stewards beforehand that some may be uncooperative, but they are to do their best to get people to follow them without explaining why. On a screen at the front, project and or have someone unseen say: 'Are you sitting comfortably? No? Good! Then we'll begin.' "

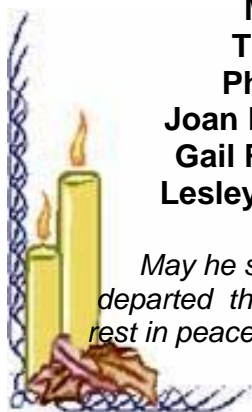
Roots for Worship Ecumenical worship

By comparison the Peace seems quite tolerable
Charlie

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.

**Herbert Nicholls
May France
Trevor Jones
Philip Franklin
Joan Frances Clothier
Gail Roberta Tuffnail
Lesley Anita Robinson**



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

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Rest in Peace

The funeral of Trevor Jones will take place on Tuesday 14th March at Bedford Crematorium at 1.45pm. Crossley