



Methodist
Church

Partnership News

13 April 2008

Fourth Sunday of Easter



Church of
England

Partnership Church Services Today

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

9.30am St Mark's Church - Morning Worship
Preacher - Revd Dr Sam Cappleman
Leadership Team -Mrs Avril Williams
Intercessions – Mrs Alison Holden

11.00am Putnoe Heights – Morning Worship
Preacher – Revd Dr Sam Cappleman
Leadership -Mrs Jenny Emsley
Intercessions -Mrs Sue Allen

20 April - Fifth Sunday of Easter

9.30am St. Mark's Church - Holy Communion
Preacher - Revd Charles Royden
Leadership Team - Mrs Morag Stewart
Intercessions -

11.00am Putnoe Heights - Holy Communion
Preacher– Revd Charles Royden
Leadership Team - Mrs Linda Hoar
Intercessions – Dr Tim Wilkes

Bible Readings.1. Acts 7: 55-60 2. 1 Peter 2: 2-10
3. John 14: 1-14

Thank You

The flowers in St. Mark's are given by Marion and Wendy, giving thanks for a safe recovery following Wendy's surgery.

The flowers at Putnoe Heights Church have been given by Diana Johnson in loving memory of her mother Jean Brown.

Prayer for Sunday

Jesus, by your wounded
feet direct our path.
Jesus, by your nailed hands
move us to deeds of love.
Jesus, by your pierced side
purify our desires.
Jesus, by your crown of thorns
annihilate our pride.
Jesus by your broken heart,
knit ours to yours. Amen.

Richard Crawshaw, 1613-49

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

Partnership Pastoral Support Team Co-Ordinator & Churchyards Administrator

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

Putnoe Heights Church Centre

Open 9am—5pm Monday to Friday
Tel/fax & Answering Service 365630 putnoe@thisischurch.com
Centre Manager Mr Barry Snelson 365630 & 344417
Leadership Team Mr Alan Cooper 365302 Mob 07989367604
Treasurer Mr Ian Morse 216428 treasurerph@thisischurch.com
Gift Aid Administrator - Mr John Hitt 404186
Youth & children's worker - Mrs 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 L Parry 216724 Mob 07922053740
Treasurer - Mr Ian Farthing 210892 treasurer@thisischurch.com
Gift Aid Administrator Mr Williams 360605

Regular Weekly Activities - A Guide To Our Churches

Monday

9.30-12.00pm Mon-Fri Putnoe Heights Pre-school

Headteacher Mrs Janet Smith ☎326685

8.30-5.30pm Mon-Fri St Mark's Pre-school

Headteacher Mrs. Helen Harpin ☎312634

(See website for more details)

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

10.00am Bakers Barn Art Group. St Mark's

Mr Kellie ☎721063

10.45am U3A Playreading St Mark's C Birks ☎219607

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

1.45pm U3A History Group St Mark's 2nd & 4th week of the month. ☎ David Fowler 824474

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

4.15pm Rosemary Conley Diet & Fitness. Putnoe Heights. Margo Needham 843747

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

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

6.15 pm Brownies Putnoe. Sharon Tanner ☎07720712735

6.15 Pilates at Putnoe Heights Jane Butcher 300859

7.30pm Sugarcraft Guild St Mark's 1st week every month Pat Nicholson ☎353518

7.15pm Guides. St Mark's. Mrs Gill Lake ☎218091

7.15pm Yoga. Putnoe Heights Lena Holland ☎244970

7.30pm Whist Drive. St Mark's 3rd & 5th week each month. Next meeting 21 April Judith Stanton. ☎823313

7.30pm House group 30 The Ridgeway. The home of Eddy & Margaret Peck ☎267567.

8.00pm 'Get Fit, Stay Fit' Putnoe Heights. Mrs Diane Field ☎404976

Tuesday

9.30am Candlewicking (Needlework). Putnoe Heights. Judi Staughton ☎341821

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

10am -Bedford Arts Society starting at St Mark's on the 11th September. ☎Mrs Brown 771676

1.30pm Toddlers Playtime. Putnoe Heights Majella Atkinson ☎325293.

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

2.00pm U3A Book Group. St Mark's 3rd Tuesday of the month Mrs Berman ☎364723

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

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

2.15pm Putnoe Heights Women's Fellowship. Next meeting Joan & Ken Willis @The Salvation Army'. Betty Wyatt ☎350188.

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

2.30pm Tuesday Afternoon Housegroup. St Mark's alternate weeks. Mary Stubbs ☎406784.

3.45pm Stars School of Dance. Putnoe Heights. Esther Sancto ☎295862 or ☎07917582468.

7.00pm Hearts in Beds Cardiac Support Group

St Mark's 1st Tuesday ☎Parsons 351150

7pm Keep Fit. St. Mark's Jan Gregory ☎328455

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

7.30pm Tabernacle of Truth Church Putnoe Heights

Bible study & prayers. Revd.Tarr ☎360188 or 07866775515

7.30pm Chartered Management Institute St Marks 3rd week of the month. Mrs Dimmock ☎01525 862374

7.30pm Putnoe Heights Ladies Tuesday Club - Meets fortnightly. Next meeting 22 April Kate Martinow Director of the Family Centre for the under 5's. .Audrey Wilkins☎365068 or Margaret Gentle ☎309043

Wednesday

9.15am Paint Tots St Mark's Jacqui Hanahan ☎824475

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

9.30am Body Control Pilates. Putnoe Heights. Stephanie Smith ☎07973174430.

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

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

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

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

Luncheon Club. Putnoe Heights fortnightly. Next meeting 23 April 2008 Putnoe Heights Office ☎365630

12.30pm Men's Fellowship Lunch St Mark's 2nd week each month. Chris Izzard ☎212164

1.00-3pm Police Surgery at Putnoe Heights .

1.15pm Bridge Club for the Retired. St. Mark's. Mr Barnes ☎261811

1.45 Scots Society Whist monthly .All welcome Nancy Barr 268147

2pm U3A Whist Group St Mark's 3rd week of the month Ken Silvester☎400584

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

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

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

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

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

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

7pm U3A Whist Group St Mark's 4th Wednesday of the month. Ken Silvester ☎400584

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

7.00pm Yoga St Mark's Dorothy Turner ☎721763

7.00pm Putnoe Guild Putnoe Heights monthly Janice ☎Loxley 347073

7.00pm U3A Sky at Night 2nd Wednesday of the month.

Mr Farish ☎824984

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

8.00pm Tudor Reeds Folk Dance Club St Mark's,
1st ,3rd & 5th Wednesday. Next meeting 16 April 2008
Graham ☎406359 or Alan 345312.

8.00pm Bedford Wine and Social Club St Mark's 1st
week in the month. Mrs Gansfield ☎215016

Thursday

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

9.40am Jo Jingles. St. Mark's. Music & movement for pre-
school children. Jayne Phillips ☎01582 485333

9.45am Yoga Putnoe Heights Lena Holland ☎244970

9.45am Chat and Play weekly at St.Mark's. A group for
Mums & toddlers. £1.75 for first child. More details from St.
Marks Office ☎342613 or Emma Strangwick ☎211070

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

1.30—3.00pm NHS Baby Clinic St.Mark's 267444

1.30pm Toddler Playtime. Putnoe Majella Atkinson☎
325293.

1.45-3.15pm Rosemary Conley St.Mark's. Contact
Margot 843747

2pm Putnoe Bridge Club. Gerald Palmer ☎345991

5.30pm Police Surgery. St Mark's Foyer.

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

6.15pm Brownies. Putnoe Heights Helga Nash ☎218521

6.15pm Bedford Junior Chess Club. St. Mark's
Mr C Hill ☎772922

7.00pm Club 2000 Putnoe Heights
Nina Ovenden☎825059

7pm U3A Folk & Poetry Group. St Mark's 2nd & 4th
week of the month. Doug Ovenden ☎825059

7.00pm British Cardiac Patients Assoc.at Putnoe bi
monthly Mrs.E. marriot 303834

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

7.30pm Bedford Embroiderers' Guild St Mark's
3rd Thursday of the month. Mrs C Smith ☎344544

8.00pm Bedford Writers Circle. St Mark's 1st week
each month. Mr Newton ☎01525 378193

8.00pm Magpies Women's Group St Mark's 2nd & 4th
week Mrs Cotchin ☎402089

8.00pm Brickhill Wives St Mark's 1st and 3rd week Next
meeting Mrs Woods ☎404702

Friday

**9.30-12.30pm & 12.30 - 2.30pm U3A Photography
Group** St Marks 4th week Joyce Fildes ☎353086

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

1.30pm Stars School of Dance Putnoe Heights Contact
Esther Sancto ☎295862 or ☎07917 582468

2.00pm U3A Gardening Group Putnoe Heights Eve
Whitehead ☎356875

**6.30pm –7.30pm Line Dancing. Beginners 7-8pm
Improvers** St Mark's Christine Rushton ☎782360

7pm Bedford Arts Society fortnightly Putnoe Heights

from 8 September. Malcolm Smith ☎01234 400741

7pm Youth Club for age 10-15. St Mark's Church.

Contact PC Dave Hawkey ☎349179

7.45pm Astrology Group St Mark's as from 11th January.
Mr Kenworthy ☎402792

Saturday

9.00pm Stars School of Dance. Putnoe

Esther Sancto ☎295862 or ☎07917 582468

10.00am Theatretrain St Mark's. Dancing acting, singing.

Kate Howard ☎01234 782414

1.30pm Young Embroiders bi monthly Terry Fletcher Tel
357198

7.00pm Duplicate Bridge. St Mark's Mrs Pillinger
☎212066

Sunday

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

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

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

6pm T.N.T. Putnoe. For 9-12 year olds (fortnightly) join us
for fellowship, fun, games & outings .Next meeting 10
February Liz ☎302349



Diary Dates

St Mark's Church Council
– 17th June , 18 November
**St Mark's Leadership
Team – 13 May
Putnoe Heights**

Leadership Team – May 12th

**Putnoe Heights Children & Youth Committee –
21st April**

Putnoe Heights Management Meetings 14th April
and 14th July.

St Mark's Church Forum Meeting - .

19 May, 11 July, 9 September, 12 November all at
12 noon

Putnoe Church Council - 16 June, 6 October.

Pastoral Group Meeting — 10 June 4.30pm

Churchyard Committee - 11 June 11.00am

Putnoe Heights Mission Group –

Partnership Council -

Brickhill Parish Council Meetings -

**Deanery Meeting - 12 June, 18 September, 13
November**

Circuit/Deanery Meeting 12 June

Woodland Burial Trustees -

Putnoe Heights Children & Youth–

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

4th Sunday of Easter

Opening Verse - Psalm 23

The Lord is my Shepherd, I shall not want

Collect Prayer for the Day

Risen Christ, faithful shepherd of your father's sheep: teach us to hear your voice and to follow your command, that all your people may be gathered into one flock, to the glory of God the Father.

Amen. *Common Worship Shorter Collect*

First Bible Reading - Acts 2: 42-47

They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. Everyone was filled with awe, and many wonders and miraculous signs were done by the apostles. All the believers were together and had everything in common. Selling their possessions and goods, they gave to anyone as he had need. Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God and enjoying the favour of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.

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

Second Bible Reading—1 Peter 2: 19-25

For it is commendable if a man bears up under the pain of unjust suffering because he is conscious of God. But how is it to your credit if you receive a beating for doing wrong and endure it? But if you suffer for doing good and you endure it, this is commendable before God. To this you were called, because Christ suffered for you, leaving you an example, that you should follow in his steps. "He committed no sin, and no deceit was found in his mouth." When they hurled their insults at him, he did not retaliate; when he suffered, he made no threats. Instead, he entrusted himself to him who judges justly. He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed. For you were like sheep going astray, but now you have returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls. (This is the word of the Lord - **All: Thanks be to God**)

Third Reading—John 10: 1-10

"I tell you the truth, the man who does not enter the sheep pen by the gate, but climbs in by some other way, is a thief and a robber. The man who enters by the gate is the shepherd of his sheep. The watchman opens the gate for him, and the sheep listen to his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. When he has brought out all his own, he goes on ahead of them, and his sheep follow him because they know his voice. But they will never follow a stranger; in fact, they will run away from him because they do not recognize a stranger's voice." Jesus used this figure of speech, but they did not understand what he was telling them. Therefore Jesus said again, "I tell you the truth, I am the gate for the sheep. All who ever came before me were thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not listen to them. I am the gate; whoever enters through me will be saved. He will come in and go out, and find pasture. The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full. (This is the word of the Lord. **All: Thanks be to God.**)

Post Communion Prayer Lord God our Father, through our Saviour Jesus Christ you have assured your children of eternal life and in baptism have made us one with him: deliver us from the death of sin and raise us to new life in your love, in the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, by the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen



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

Praise to the holiest in the height, 563; Sing to God new songs of worship, 600; Lead us heavenly father lead us, 400; The King of love my shepherd is, 649; The head that once was crowned with thorns, 647

Commentary

Dietrich Bonhoeffer once-noted the advantage of celebrating Easter from a prison cell. You become entirely aware, he reasoned, that the door is the only way out. More than that, the door of a cell can be opened only from the outside. When Jesus speaks of saving those who pass through the door, He has salvation in mind. He's offering an opportunity to step out into the world of life in its fullness just as we might step through a prison door into freedom and a new life.

It's a tough call for the sheep. Staying behind the gate was safe and secure and it's easy to imagine some of them recommending to the others that they don't go out at all. They can remember times when they did go out and not all of them came home. Other sheep point out that if they don't go out to find food and pasture they will starve to death, which doesn't seem like a good idea either. Fortunately Jesus points out that in entering through Him they have security and salvation and in going out through Him, they have access to all that they need to sustain them. The picture of Jesus as a gate has with it the imagery of both a closed gate, behind which the sheep are safe and also an open gate which leads to life giving pastures. The open gate allows the shepherd to come in to call and lead his sheep to where they can graze in safety. The Psalm which is set for today, Psalm 23, and the rest of John 10 talks about Jesus being our shepherd, someone who protects, guides, leads and cares for us as individuals. He leads us out into the freedom of a life that is truly fulfilled. The Latin translation of shepherd, 'pastor', has tended to associate the shepherd image with ministry but originally its most common use was as a metaphor for rulers and leaders. It was a way of describing royal responsibilities which included caring for subjects, the flock. It was the symbolism used when David became the shepherd king and John uses the same imagery for Christ as the Good Shepherd.

The passage links the theme of Jesus as the gate and with the role of a leader shepherd by emphasizing that the sheep know the voice of the shepherd and will follow him through the gate. Jesus says that all who came before Him were no better thieves and robbers, but fortunately, or as a result of this, the sheep did not listen to them. For the Jewish listeners this was a clear statement that access to the Father was uniquely through Jesus Himself, not through those people and voices who had come before Him, merely expounding the law in an inaccessible manner. There is an implication in the parable that we are to make sure that we listen to His voice. But there is more to the parable than just urging a response and explaining why some do not respond to the voices they hear. It is clear warning about rival claims to leadership. The reading follows immediately after the confrontation with the Pharisees about the curing of the man who had been born blind. Jesus had agreed with them at the very end of the previous chapter that they were blind and had failed to see who he was, to and for them. John now presents Jesus as the gate. Those who enter through that gate will be shepherds for the flock. Those who pretended to be the leaders before Jesus, (namely these very same Pharisees from the previous chapter), were self-serving destroyers of the flock. In the context of this gospel and first century Jerusalem they are doubtless also other Jewish leaders who competed for the loyalty of John's sheep. The dangers John outlines stem from other rival (Jewish and non Jewish) leaders who were trying to persuade the early believers to follow them rather than the true teaching of Christ. These false leaders are the people John has Jesus calling thieves and robbers. Jesus declares himself to be the shepherd and those who follow him will learn his voice, as well as being able to discern the voices of the strangers. In the resurrection narratives, Jesus came calling people by their names: Mary Magdala in the garden of Resurrection and Thomas who had doubted. Jesus went out calling to his flock whether they were on the road to Emmaus or out fishing in the dark. Somehow they came to recognise his voice, not perhaps so much by actual sound, but by how his voice sounded inside them. But the message that the passage conveys is bigger than any local Jerusalem disputes about Jesus and the tensions of first century Asia Minor and the timbre of Jesus' earthly voice. Jesus called to the first believers and just as clearly He calls to us. The passage therefore graphically illustrates a way of engaging and being engaged by God and being called out of the sheep pens we each inhabit. It marks the discernment of God's calling and invites us to respond to Him when we hear His voice. Jesus says that He, as the gate, gives access to life in all its abundance; and as the shepherd, knows each of us by name and calls and leads us as individuals to abundant and eternal life. *Sam Cappleman*

Meditation.

When we read John 10 it's easy to skip over the first verses of the chapter and focus on the better known section which follows where Jesus refers to Himself as the Good Shepherd. I am the Good Shepherd is one of the 'I am' sayings of Jesus which occur in this gospel. But to do that misses out the significance of what is being said in these verses. Here Jesus states very clearly that He is the gate (or door) for the sheep. Gates or doors have 2 sides, an inside and an outside. On one side of our own front doors is our home, on the other the street. Jesus is a door with two sides, on one side is humanity on earth and on the other, God who is in heaven. Through the door of Christ the love of the human race ascends to God and the love of God comes down to the human race. As we enter into God's presence through the door of Christ so we find salvation and enter into life itself in all its fullness.

Prayers for Sunday and the week ahead

St Peter was appointed missionary to the Jews of the dispersion and we pray for our Jewish brothers and sisters. Lord God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, who brought forth from the root of Jesse a Messiah for all tribes of the earth; grant us in faith and humility so to stand in awe of your presence, that in the last all the branches of the tree of life may be grafted in, and all those whom you have chosen may rejoice together in your love. Amen

Heavenly Father, You gave your Son, Jesus Christ to show us the Way of justice, truth and peace. Help us hold his example before our eyes, in the way that leads to a better world on earth and eternal life in the Heaven. Amen

O Lord, whose way is perfect, help us always to trust in your goodness, to walk in the way of faith, and to follow in the path of simplicity. Teach us to cast our cares on your providence, that we may possess a quiet mind and a contented spirit; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

God, our Shepherd, give to the church, a new vision and a new charity, new wisdom and fresh understanding, the revival of her brightness and the renewal of her unity; that the eternal message of thy Son, undefiled by the traditions of men, may be hailed as the good news of the age; through him who maketh all things new. Amen. *Percy Dearmer*

Christ the good shepherd, grant to all whom you have called to positions of leadership in this and every land, strength, wisdom and integrity, that they may feed the people committed to their charge, and lead them beside the waters of peace. Amen *Adapted from Michael Councill*

Almighty and ever-living God, give us new strength from the courage of Christ our shepherd, and lead us to join the saints in heaven, where he lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen

God of peace, who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus Christ, the great Shepherd of the sheep, with the blood of the eternal covenant: make us perfect in every good work to do your will, and work in us that which is well-pleasing in your sight; and may the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. Amen

Book Review

The Jewish Prophet: Rabbi Dr Michael J Shire List Price £12.99

Some of us may recall that the Bishop of St Albans quoted a passage from a book called *The Jewish Prophet* in his Lent Course evening. This is a book which contains extracts from the great Jewish prophets from the time of the Old Testament up until today. It is illustrated with manuscripts from the British Library and gives insights into Jewish wisdom, thinking and history from Moses up until the present day. Split into three sections; In the beginning, From Generation to Generation, and Even in our own Time, this anthology is a collection of cameos and writings from individuals in Jewish history who have contributed to the prophetic role. People, who the introduction suggests, have their eyes directed towards the contemporary scene but their ears inclined to God. This is a good book to dip into or to use in times of reflection. Don't be put off by the list price, its available much cheaper from Amazon (via the church web site). Ask at the office if you don't have internet access and would like to order a copy. *Sam Cappleman*



District Women's Network Spring Craft Day 2008 on 3rd May. 9.45am to 4.15pm at Priory Methodist Church. Booking Forms from Pam Seymour. Tel: 305695, to be returned by 23rd April.

Music at St Andrew's Church Saturday 10 May 2008 at 8.00pm. Ruth Palmer - violin Young Classical Brit Award Winner 2007 with Joseph Middleton - piano Winner of the Wigmore Hall International Pianist's Prize 2007 Strawberries and cream, and a glass of sparkling wine will be served on the Vicarage lawn during the interval (£2) Concert tickets: £7 (£5 concessions) from: St Andrew's Church Centre Office, tel: 01234 216881

Annual Congregational Meetings

Putnoe Heights Sunday 20 April
St Mark's Church 4 May
Both meetings take place after the church service.

British Cardiac Patients Association— Next meeting April 24th at 7.30pm at Putnoe. We are having a concert given by the 'Willing Warblers'. Admission is free and we will have refreshments and a raffle so please do come along and enjoy the evening with us. For further information ring 303834

Easter offering envelopes are available in the entrance hall. Please use and return by the 20th April. Your contributions are very much appreciated by the Methodist Church for World Mission.

Please help www. Thischurch.com

In the last week thischurch.com received 5,986 visitors. They came from 98 countries across the world. They were interested in viewing many different resources including the weekly bible notes and meditations, information about renewal of wedding vows and funerals. The most visited material was once again the intercessions page. People want help with prayers and they value the weekly prayers supplied by those who lead our intercessions in worship.

If you lead prayers, please will you email a copy to Charlie. If you cannot type, please find somebody who has a computer who can then email them for you. This is an important ministry and we really do need this support.

The Dedication Service will be at Priory Methodist Church at 6.30pm on the 27th April. The theme will be "Making a Difference, Transforming Lives.

Anjulita Court moves a step closer



The Sod Cutting ceremony for Anjulita Court took place on Friday 11 April on the Woodlands Estate. This new Methodist Homes for the Aged (MHA) building represents the highest possible standard of accommodation for the elderly. MHA provides a caring context inspired by Christian values. The project will be completed in June 2009. After the ceremony a reception was held at St Mark's Church Community Centre.



*Charles Royden and Clifton Ibbett
at the reception for the Sod Cutting*



Bedford Town Band Concert of English music to celebrate St George's Day at Putnoe Heights on Friday 25th April at 7.30pm. Tickets £6 (Concessions £4) available from the Putnoe Church Office or call Roger Nicholls on 01234 357268



Woodland Burial Open day

There will be an open day at the St Albans Woodland Burial Ground at Keysoe on June 7 from 2.00pm to 5.00pm. The woodland has over 50 acres of land for you to walk and enjoy a day out. Refreshments will be served

Confirmations. We will be preparing people for a joint Methodist/ Anglican Confirmation on June 1st. If you are interested in joining the Confirmation classes, (Sundays in May) please see Charlie or Joan.

Women's Network Circuit Easter Offering Service on 27th April at 6.30pm at Priory Methodist Church. All Welcome.

TNT (our partnership 9+ group) starts again Sunday 13th April. Meet at Liz's home for pizza and dance mat!!!

For Sale Wrought iron & brass recess electric fire with illuminated £20 Tel.268571 (Falcon Ave.)

St Mark's Church Annual General Meeting 4 May. Nomination forms for the Church Council are available from the church office.

Wendy's Operation. We were delighted to hear this week that Wendy has come through her operation very well and is recovering well. She is expected to be home over the weekend and we all wish her well for a continued recovery.

St Mark's Leadership Team. The Leadership Team at St Mark's are to assist the ministers by providing feedback and evaluation on Sunday Worship. They will write structured comments on the services, especially regarding preaching, which will then be discussed among the Leadership Team. If you have any comments on services which you would like to make we would all value your comments.

Ecumenical Forum The forum this year will take place at Barton-le-Clay on Thursday 22 May at 7.30pm. Would like to go and hear what is happening ecumenically across Beds ?

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.

Ettie Cobby

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

Church Membership

As AGM's approach it is really helpful and sometimes quite important for us to have accurate membership information for our church. Our churches pay a financial contribution to the Church of England & the Methodist Church for members, it is therefore important to have an accurate record of membership to enable us to pay our church share. It is also helpful to have up to date details if we need to make contact with you, perhaps when a pastoral situation arises.

If you consider yourself to be a member of this church, please would you kindly check the church membership list this morning, or over the next couple of weeks. If your details require amendment then complete the form and return it to the church office, a minister or a member of the Leadership Team.

It is now very helpful to have your email address. We would like to be able to use this to communicate with you. Please consider giving us this information if you have not already done so. Please be assured we do not release your details to any other organisations.



St Mark's Coffee Shop

Every Sunday

2.30pm until 5.00pm



We publish the banns

And pray for the marriage of Elvis Donald Veira and Julie Diane Gilbert both of this parish to be married at St Mark's on 28 June.

2nd time of asking

Rest in Peace



The funeral of Mrs Joan Morrison will take place at Bedford Crematorium on Friday 18 April at 10.00am *Royden*

The funeral of John Molyneaux Munro Eason will take place at Bedford Crematorium on Friday April 25 at 1.45pm. *Royden*