



Methodist  
Church

# Partnership News

14 May 2006

## Fifth Sunday of Easter

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 C Izzard  
Leadership Team - Mrs Avril Williams  
Intercessions - Mr John Tatman  
**11.00am Putnoe Heights - Morning Worship**  
Preacher - – Mr C Izzard  
Leadership Team - Mr Lawrence Wyatt  
Intercessions - Mrs Betty Wyatt

### 21 May - Sixth Sunday of Easter

**8.30 Service of Holy Communion**  
**9.30am St Mark's Church – Holy Communion**  
Preacher - Revd Dr Joan Crossley  
Leadership - Mrs Delia Shephard  
Intercessions - Mrs Pat Leusby  
**11.00am Putnoe Heights - Holy Communion**  
Preacher - Revd Dr Joan Crossley  
Leadership Team - Mr Dave Allen  
Intercessions - Dr Tim Wilkes

**Reading 1 : Acts 10: 44-48**  
**Reading 2 : 1 John 5: 1-6**  
**Reading 3 : John 15: 9-17**

### Thank You

The flowers at Putnoe Heights Church this week have been given by Megan Wiles in memory of her sister Valorie.

The flowers at St Mark's Church have been given by Valerie Edwards in memory of her mother, who would have had her 100th Birthday this week.

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

Yesterday I was crucified with Christ;  
today I am glorified with him.  
Yesterday I was dead with Christ;  
today I am sharing in his resurrection.  
Yesterday I was buried with him;  
today I am waking with him  
from the sleep of death.  
*Gregory of Nazianzus (398)*

### 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** - Mr Alan Bayliss 268101  
**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** - Mrs Janet Day 295592  
**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](http://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

**8.30 - 5.30 pm Mon-Fri St Mark's Pre-school** Mrs. Helen Harpin 312634

*(See website for more details)*

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

**Mini-Strikers Sport for Children** at Putnoe aged 2-4 years. Contact Andy Carey 01908 313751 or 07766 142754, or [www.ministrikers.co.uk](http://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 15 May 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. Helen Folbigg 351223

**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 9 May "Time for Words" Contact Betty Wyatt 350188.

**2.15pm Putnoe Heights Men's Fellowship.** Next meeting 23 May. Members afternoon Study Paper 2 Churches in Rural Communities. contact 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. Next meeting 16 May 7.30pm Charity Evening Bedford Town Band.£5 inc. refreshments. In aid of East Anglian Air Ambulance. Contact Madge Walsh 359088

**8.30pm St Mark's Church Qi Gong.** Contact Mrs D Steele 356384

## 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 17 May 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 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

**2pm U3A Indoor Games** at Putnoe 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 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** 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

**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**

**St Mark's Leadership Team –** 6 June, 12 Sept  
**Putnoe Heights Leadership Team -** 2 May

**St Mark's Church Management Meeting**

**Putnoe Heights Management -** 15 May,

**Putnoe Church Council** 12 June, 9 Oct

**Pastoral Group Meeting –**

**Churchyard Committee -** 5 June 11a.m

**Putnoe Heights Mission Group Meeting-. .**

**Partnership Council -** 19 Sept

**Brickhill Parish Council -**

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

**Annual Congregational Meetings**

3pm St Mark's, 4pm Putnoe Heights

**Putnoe Heights Children & Youth - ,** 28 June

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

# Fifth Sunday of Easter

## Verse of Scripture 1 John 4:7

Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love.

## A Collect Prayer - Before we read we pray

Risen Christ, your wounds declare your love for the world and the wonders of your risen life: give us compassion and courage to risk ourselves for those we serve.

*Common Worship Shorter Collect*

## First Reading - Acts 8: 26-40

Now an angel of the Lord said to Philip, "Go south to the road—the desert road—that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza." So he started out, and on his way he met an



Ethiopian eunuch, an important official in charge of all the treasury of Candace, queen of the Ethiopians. This man had gone to Jerusalem to worship, and on his way home was sitting in his chariot reading the book of Isaiah the prophet. The Spirit told Philip, "Go to that chariot and stay near it." Then Philip ran up to the chariot and heard the man reading Isaiah the prophet. "Do you understand what you are reading?" Philip asked. "How can I," he said, "unless someone explains it to me?" So he invited Philip to come up and sit with him. The eunuch was reading this passage of Scripture: "He was led like a sheep to the slaughter, and as a lamb before the shearer is silent, so he did not open his mouth. In his humiliation he was deprived of justice. Who can speak of his descendants? For his life was taken from the earth." The eunuch asked Philip, "Tell me, please, who is the prophet talking about, himself or someone else?" Then Philip began with that very passage of Scripture and told him the good news about Jesus. As they travelled along the road, they came to some water and the eunuch said, "Look, here is water. Why shouldn't I be baptized?" And he gave orders to stop the chariot. Then both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water and Philip baptized him. When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord suddenly took Philip away, and the eunuch did not see him again, but went on his way rejoicing. Philip, however, appeared at Azotus and travelled about, preaching the gospel in all the towns until he reached Caesarea

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

## Second Reading - 1 John 4: 7-21

Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love. 9This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us. We know that we live in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent his Son to be the Saviour of the world. If anyone acknowledges that Jesus is the Son of God, God lives in him and he in God. And so we know and rely on the love God has for us. God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in him. In this way, love is made complete among us so that we will have confidence on the day of judgment, because in this world we are like him. There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear, because fear has to do with punishment. The one who fears is not made perfect in love. We love because he first loved us. If anyone says, "I love God," yet hates his brother, he is a liar. For anyone who does not love his brother, whom he has seen, cannot love God, whom he has not seen. And he has given us this command: Whoever loves God must also love his brother.

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

### Third Reading - John 15: 1-8

"I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit he prunes so that it will be even more fruitful. You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you. Remain in me, and I will remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me.

"I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. If anyone does not remain in me, he is like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned. If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be given you. This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples.

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

### Post Communion Prayer

Eternal God, whose Son Jesus Christ is the way, the truth, and the life: grant us to walk in his way, to rejoice in his truth, and to share his risen life; who is alive and reigns, now and for ever. Amen

### Hymns *(Please distribute Hymns and Psalms and Morning Worship)*

1. O worship the King, all glorious above 28
2. He is Lord 256 *Hanover*
3. Thy ceaseless unexhausted love 48 *University*
4. Come Holy Ghost our hearts inspire 283 *Veni Creator*
5. Crown him with many crowns 255 *Diademata*

### Commentary 'Live obediently and live in prayer'

How do we remain close to Christ as he calls us to do in the reading today? How do we remain or stay in union with Him? This is a question which many people often ask? We are told that it is love which unites the believer to Christ, as a branch is grafted to the vine. Often when people speak about their faith they complain they feel far from the love of God. If by love we mean the emotion which is often spoken of as 'being in love' then this is perhaps not surprising. However what John means by abiding in the love of Jesus is shown in verse 10

"If you obey my commands you will remain in my love"

It might seem disappointing to be told that the love of Christ is about obedience, but the two go very closely together. The effect of Christ's love is obedience from the believer. The example of this is found in verse 10 in the relationship which Jesus had with God the Father, "even as I have kept my Father's commandments" Jesus remained in God's love by keeping the commandments and if this is how Jesus remained close to God - then this is how we must also seek to draw close to God.

This may all seem very mundane, but it is also reassuring. The love of God is continuous even when we feel that we are far from God. If we remain obedient then we will enjoy God's love, it is not subject to the vagaries of life. So it was that Paul would have known the love of God when he was shipwrecked, Peter when he was imprisoned, Stephen when he was stoned to death. They all had something which was capable of carrying them through the emotional up's and downs of life, so that their faith was not tossed to and fro like a leaf on a pond. They had a faith which was built upon the rock of their obedience to God. Likewise, the difference between the wise man who built his house upon the rock and the foolish man who built his house upon the sand was obedience. Both men heard the word. This is not a parable about the believer and the unbeliever- both build houses. The difference is obedience. The wise man is obedient and so his faith works. The fool is not obedient. Our love is synonymous with obedience and if we are obedient, then we will begin to know the presence of God ever more deeply in our lives.

Surely is this not true of any human relationship? Is our love not shown in commitment irrespective of all else? Even when we think we feel more strongly for another we know that love does not follow such feelings. Instead we are obedient to the promise we have made and the commitment which has been promised.

Prayer is also important in this. Jesus says

'If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be given you.'

Jesus is saying that prayer is not asking God for things for ourselves. It is about being in fellowship with Christ and able to discern His will so that our will becomes one with the will of God. *Charles Royden*



## **Meditation**

Christian Aid Week is seven amazing days of fundraising, prayer and action against global poverty. Add your time, money and voice to Christian Aid Week, and see them multiplied to make an impact around the world through Christian Aid. You add. We multiply.

### **Thirsting for justice**

In the month in which Christian Aid Week challenges us to renew our commitment to the poor, let us remind ourselves why we believe in life before death. Life in all its fullness means freedom to be and to grow, to make mistakes and to start again, which for Christians is symbolised by the baptismal gift of water 'to cleanse and revive' us. And yet millions of people in the developing world are denied this potential precisely because they die for lack of water. The knife-edge between life and death, which is the lot of so many people, is a recurring theme in the Old Testament, with its references to drought and famine, pestilence and disease. And it is a knife-edge that Jesus confronted. Aware of the fragility of life, after his baptism he heads straight to the desert to face death and to struggle with what it means to live. Here, in the dry heat and the parched lands, his journey of solidarity with the poor takes shape. And it reaches its climax in those stark words from the cross, 'I thirst!' Here he identifies with all those who long for life, who cry out for justice and beg for mercy. Their struggle is his. Their parched land is his. Their cracked earth is his. Their dry mouth is his.

But it is ours also. For in the waters of baptism we become one with Christ. When we respond to those who cry out in hunger and thirst, we respond to Christ into whose body we are baptised. When we plead the cause of the poor and needy, we acknowledge our oneness with those who suffer. When we rejoice with those who defy death, we proclaim our oneness in resurrection. Christian Aid Week gives us a chance to renew our commitment to the poor, and also to reflect on our baptism as we journey in solidarity with them. *Annabel Shilson-Thomas*

**Prayer** Christ, whom we meet in bread and wine, in body broken and love outpoured, fill us with your compassion that we may hear the cries of the poor and challenge the satisfaction of the rich. Engender in us a thirst for justice that our longings may turn to action and our actions lead to transformation. And nourish us with a vision of a world made whole that we may reach out to friend and stranger and work together to make all things new. Amen. *Annabel Shilson-Thomas*

### **Collect**

God of every people and nation, who sent your only Son into the world so we might live through him; grant that we, abiding in the love of Jesus, may so love our brothers and sisters throughout the world that poverty may end, prejudice be overcome, and fear be cast out, through Jesus Christ our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

### **Prayers for Sunday and the Week Ahead**

Lord Jesus, it is better to light one candle than to give up hope and curse the darkness. It is better to save one stranger from deportation and reunite one separated family, than it is to say it is not our problem and we can't do much to help. It is better to join hands in one work of love than to sit on our hands and feel powerless. Lord, help us to love you in the stranger and the refugee. Help us to love ourselves enough to believe that we can change things for the better. Help us to love as you have loved us. Amen. *Christian Aid*

I saw a child today, Lord, who will not die tonight, hurried into hunger's grave. He was bright and full of life because his father has a job and he has food and water, but somewhere, everywhere, ten thousand life-lamps will go out and not be lit again tomorrow. Lord, teach me my sin. Amen.  
An African Christian prayer *Christian Aid Prayers for the drought in east Africa /05.06*

We come before you Lord needing the love you alone can provide, and knowing that within you and by you and through you all that we need can be found. Pour out upon us today your grace and mercy - make your Spirit move strongly within us - that in our hearts there may be an abundance of your holy love and in our minds the fullness of your sacred word. Abide in us and with us and help us to abide in you as we proclaim your glory and seek your strength - both now, and indeed forevermore. Amen.

# News, Views and Information

**Annual Moody & Sankey Evening** at Park Road on Sunday 4 June at 6.30pm. If you would like to choose a hymn let Bill Davies or Jenny Clifford (404644) know by 29.5.06. If you would like to say a few words about your choice you are welcome to but it is not compulsory. Everyone is welcome to come for a rousing sing. Jenny Clifford.

## **London NW District Women's Network**

Celebration Service Saturday 20 May at 2.30 pm at West London Mission, Hinde Street, London.

**Fairtrade Fashion Show** Sunday 21 May, 4pm at Christ Church Halls, Dudley Street.

**Putnoe Heights grass cutting** rota is on the notice board. Anyone who can help please sign up, it would be much appreciated. Thank you.

**Footprints Rambling Group** invite you to join them Sunday 21 May for a 4 mile circular walk around Stevington. Meet at 2.30pm in car park of the Royal George. As car parking is limited, please share cars where possible. Sue & Richard Butler 354183.

**Christian Aid Week. 14 - 20 May** If you are able to help distribute and collect the envelopes please collect a bundle from the table in the foyer and write your name on the list located on the table. Many thanks.

**Footprints Rambling Group** invite you to join them on Sunday, 21st May for a 4-mile circular walk around Stevington. Please meet at 2.30pm in the car park of the Royal George. The entrance to the car park is in Court Lane, but as parking space is limited, car-sharing wherever possible would help. Parts of the walk could be muddy if the weather has been wet. Further details from Sue and Richard Butler on Bedford 354183.

**T.T.T.** (The Emergency Relief Fund). Thanks to the generosity of those who save their small coins, a cheque for £300 has been sent to Oxfam for use in the East African Appeal. Anyone interested in helping this fund can speak to the collector on the door at Puntoe each Sunday morning.

**James & Sophie Beswick** competed in the first Bedford Junior Aquathlon last Sunday. They raised a magnificent £263 to be split equally between Putnoe Heights Church and St John's Hospice Moggerhanger. Thank you so much to you all for supporting them so generously and for the anonymous donation of £20 delivered to Gwen & Peter's house. Martin & Rebecca Beswick.

**The Garden of Remembrance** is going to be "open" on the 4 June, 2.30 - 4.30pm in aid of the Retirement Education Centre. If you could help in any way such as serving teas, showing people round or baking tray bakes beforehand, please contact Marion Prior 303254 a.s.a.p.

There will be an evening working party on 1st June 6pm till dark, to do any last minute tidying, deadheading etc. Please bring own equipment as church tools and kneelers are limited!

**Thanks to everybody** who helped make the Swedish evening such a fantastic success. The next great themed evening will be on September when we have a Mediterranean evening with the magnificent Vittorio!

## **After service meetings this morning**

Please can the Putnoe Leadership Team meet this morning after the service to discuss property issues. Please can St Mark's Church Council meet after the service to authorize a tender for work to proceed on the new building.



**St Mark's are selling their Portakabin** to make way for a new two storey extension. The Portakabin is ten years old and in excellent condition. The highest offer so far is £1600, it is on Ebay with a reserve of £2,000. It would cost about £1,000 to move to a nearby location. We hope to have the Portakabin moved before the end of the month - offers to St Mark's office please.



**New Community Extension for St Mark's**

St Mark's were delighted this week to officially receive 125,000 from WREN. At the presentation at the House of Commons Gwynneth Dunwoody MP said that the award came with a recommendation to apply for a further grant of 50,000 to enable a substantial part of the building to be completed.



**The Children of St Mark's and Putnoe Heights celebrate Easter**

**Nova Property Services**

17 Stratford Way, Lower Shelton  
 Dave Allen  
 New Telephone Numbers  
 01234 767827  
 Mobile 07736405870

office@novapropertyservices.co.uk

**Rest in Peace**



**The funeral of Frank Leslie Cornish** will take place at Bedford Crematorium on Friday 19 May at 1.45pm *Royden*

**The funeral of David John Anstee** will take place at St Mark's Church on Wednesday 17 May at 2.30pm *Royden*

**The funeral of Wendy Wilkes** will take pace at Bedford Crematorium on Thursday 18 May at 10.45 *Royden*

**The funeral of Edgar York** will take place at Putnoe Heights Church on Thursday 25 May at 1.00pm *Royden*

**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.

**Doreen Woods**

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

