



Methodist
Church

Partnership News

15 February 2009

2nd before Lent



Church of
England

Partnership Church Services Today

8.30am Holy Communion every Sunday

1st, 3rd and 5th Sunday at Putnoe Heights
2nd and 4th Sunday at St. Mark's Church

9.30am St. Mark's— Holy Communion

Preacher - Mrs Wendy Waters
Leadership Team - Mr Mike Cooper
Intercessions -Mr I Farthing

11.00am Putnoe Heights Holy Communion

Preacher - Mrs Wendy Waters
Leadership Team -Mrs Sam Ware
Intercessions -Ministers

Sunday February 22

9.30am St Mark's – Morning Worship

Preacher -
Leadership – Mrs Avril Williams
Intercessions – Mr Richard Ledger

11.00am Putnoe Heights – Morning Worship

Preacher -
Leadership - Mrs Jean Kirk
Intercessions — Dr Tim Wilkes

Readings 1 2 Kings 2:1-12 , 2 2 Cor 4:3-6,
3 Mark 9:2-9

TNT next meet on Sunday 22nd February
6.00 pm at Putnoe for a quiz evening.

Thank You

The flowers in St Marks church have been given by Judith Griffiths in loving memory of her husband Colin on his birthday.

The flowers at Putnoe Heights Church this week have been given by Deborah Wallace and family in loving memory of her baby son, Billy, on the anniversary of his death; and also by Keith and Gill Padbury in celebration of their 40th wedding anniversary.

We are always grateful for any donations for flowers perhaps to celebrate a special occasion such as an anniversary or in memory of a loved one. Please contact Miss Marion Prior 303254 (St Mark's) or Jennie Cooper 404950(Putnoe Heights) or add your name to the rota in the foyers.

A Prayer for Sunday

Break into my life afresh O Lord,
that I might experience your love,
break into my heart afresh O Lord,
that others may experience
your love through me. Amen

Contact Details

The Reverend Dr. Sam Cappleman

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

The Reverend 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 Monday to Thursday 9am - 5pm, Friday 9am - 1pm
Tel/fax & Answering Service 365630 putnoe@thisischurch.com
Centre Manager Mr Barry Snelson 365630 & 344417
Leadership Team Mrs. Wendy Nash 357119
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 - Mr Mike Cooper 306751
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 Pre-school Mon-Fri St Mark's

9.30-3.15pm Top Marks Mon-Fri St Mark's

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.

9.45am - Body Control Pilates –Putnoe Heights

Stephanie Smith ☎ 07973174430

10.00am Bakers Barn Art Group. St Mark's Mr Kellie ☎ 721063

10.30am U3A Playreading St Mark's J Birks ☎219607

11am - 12. The Right Track at St Mark's. 3rd week Signpost information for people with learning difficulties. Gina Barton ☎07999859980

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

1.30pm U3A History Group St Mark's ☎ David Fowler 824474

2pm U3A Drama St Mark's 1st & 2nd week. Mr Ovenden ☎ 825059

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 ☎ 07720713738.

6.15 Pilates at Putnoe Heights Jane Butcher 300859

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

7.30pm Cancer Care Society. St Mark's. 1st Week. Mr J Dewhurst ☎01908 377020

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 . Next meeting 16 February 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

9.30 12.30 Jo Jingles. St. Mark's. Music & movement for pre-school children. Renu Elston ☎07790206016

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 Mrs Brown☎771676

10am Autism Beds Adult Support Group. St Mark's. Sally Cripsley ☎350704

1.30pm Toddlers Playtime. Putnoe Heights Majella

Atkinson ☎325293.

1.30pm U3A Cinema Group. St Mark's 4th Week . Mrs Beaumont ☎261461

2.00pm U3A Book Group. St Mark's 3rd Week Mrs Forrest ☎344043

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

2pm U3A Photography Group. St Mark's 1st Week. Janet King ☎313946

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

2.15pm Putnoe Heights Women's Fellowship. Next meeting 17 February 'Parks & Landscapes.' Mrs Jackie Fraser. Betty Wyatt ☎350188.

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

2.15pm Tuesday Afternoon Housegroup. St Mark's Fortnightly. Mary Stubbs ☎406784.

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

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

7.30pmChartered Management Institute St Marks 3rd week. Mrs Dimmock ☎01525 862374

7.30pm Putnoe Heights Ladies Tuesday Club - Meets fortnightly. Next meeting 24 February 2009 Talk about the Mayors Parlour. The secretary. Details from Audrey Wilkins☎365068 or Margaret Gentle ☎309043

Wednesday

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 18 February 2009 Putnoe Heights Office ☎365630

12.30pm Men's Fellowship Lunch St Mark's 2nd week in month. Next meeting 11th February 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 Craft St Mark's 1st & 3rd week. Pat Holland ☎ 262823

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

6-8pm Karate. St Mark's Karen ☎079412 64885

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

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

7.00pm Putnoe Guild Putnoe Heights monthly Janice ☎ Loxley 347073

7.00pm U3A Sky at Night 2nd Week. 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 in month. Next Meeting 18 February Everyone welcome. Graham ☎406359 or Alan 345312. or Rosemary 405594

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

7.45 for 8pm God talk -[women's group monthly meeting for worship and friendly chat at Wendy Nash's Contact Majella Atkinson ☎325293

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.

9.45am Yoga Putnoe Heights Lena Holland ☎244970

9.45am Chat and Play St.Mark's. A group for Mums & toddlers. r Emma Strangwick ☎211070

12pm Storybox 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.

2pm Putnoe Bridge Club. Gerald Palmer ☎345991

2.30 - 4.30pm Bedford Art Society at St Mark's. Mary Rich ☎272470

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

7.00pm Club 2000 Putnoe Heights Nina Ovenden☎825059

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

7.30pm Bedford Embroiderers' Guild St Mark's 3rd week in month. Nadeen Salmon ☎301550

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

8.00pm Magpies Women's Group St Mark's 2nd & 4th week Jean Birks ☎219607

8.00pm Brickhill Ladies Group St Mark's 1st and 3rd week in month. Pat Foulks ☎346505

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.

9.30am U3A Photography. St Mark's 4th week in month. Val Scrivener ☎346397

10am U3A Beginners French St Mark's Joyce Fields ☎353086

9.30am U3A Photography. St Mark's 4th week in month. Val Scrivener ☎346397

12.15pm U3A Photography. St Mark's 4th week in month. Sue Butler ☎354183

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 Line Dancing. St Mark's Christine Rushton ☎782360

7pm Bedford Arts Society fortnightly Putnoe Heights from 8 September. Malcolm Smith ☎01234 400741

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

; 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

4pm B.A.M.A.A. at St Mark's. Chinese soft martial arts. Mr Chris Butcher ☎07886894922

6pm T.N.T. Putnoe. For 9-12 year olds (fortnightly) join us for fellowship & fun. Next meeting 22 February at Putnoe at 6pm for a Quiz evening. Please see Liz ☎302349 .

Diary Dates

St Mark's Church Council – 22 June, 9 Nov

St Mark's Leadership Team – 24 Feb

Putnoe Heights Leadership Team –

Putnoe Heights Management Meeting 20 Apr, 13 Jul

St Mark's Church Forum Meeting - 18 March

Putnoe Church Council - 15 Jun, 5 Oct

Pastoral Group Meeting - May 5th 4.30pm

Annual Congregational Meetings 3 May

Churchyard Committee -

Putnoe Heights Mission Group –

Partnership Council -

Brickhill Parish Council Meetings - 5 March

Deanery Meeting 18 Jun, 17 Sep, 19 Nov,

Circuit/Deanery Meeting

Woodland Burial Trustees –

Mission Group Meeting -

Putnoe Heights Children & Youth –

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

2nd Sunday before Lent

Opening Verse - Psalm 104:31,34

May the glory of the Lord endure for ever; may the Lord rejoice in His works. May my meditation be pleasing to Him, for I rejoice in the Lord.

Collect Prayer -Before we read we pray

Almighty God, you have created the heavens and the earth and made us in your image: teach us to discern your hand in all your works and your likeness in all your children; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who with you and the Holy Spirit reigns supreme over all things, now and for ever. Amen *Common Worship*



First Bible Reading – Proverbs 8: 1,22-31

Does not wisdom call out? Does not understanding raise her voice?

"The LORD brought me forth as the first of his works, before his deeds of old; I was appointed from eternity, from the beginning, before the world began. When there were no oceans, I was given birth, when there were no springs abounding with water; before the mountains were settled in place, before the hills, I was given birth, before he made the earth or its fields or any of the dust of the world. I was there when he set the heavens in place, when he marked out the horizon on the face of the deep, when he established the clouds above and fixed securely the fountains of the deep, when he gave the sea its boundary so the waters would not overstep his command, and when he marked out the foundations of the earth. Then I was the craftsman at his side. I was filled with delight day after day, rejoicing always in his presence, rejoicing in his whole world and delighting in mankind. (Reader: This is the word of the Lord – Thanks be to God)

Second Reading - Colossians 1: 15-20

He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. For by him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things were created by him and for him. He is before all things, and in him all things hold together. And he is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning and the firstborn from among the dead, so that in everything he might have the supremacy. For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him, and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through his blood, shed on the cross.

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

Third Reading - John 1: 1-14 All: Glory to Christ our Saviour

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. In him was life, and that life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, but the darkness has not understood it. There came a man who was sent from God; his name was John. He came as a witness to testify concerning that light, so that through him all men might believe. He himself was not the light; he came only as a witness to the light. The true light that gives light to every man was coming into the world. He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him. He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God-- children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God. The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

(Reader: This is the Gospel of Christ—**Praise to Christ our Lord**)

Post Communion Prayer

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

Commentary

All three of today's readings speak loud and clear about the beginning of time and hint at what might be thought of as 'pre creation'. The overriding message is that Jesus was part of God's plan from the outset, he was there when the earth and all that is in it was created.

Proverbs Chapter 8 is entitled 'Wisdom's Call'. The Book of Proverbs is written in the style of a series of sermons designed to teach us how to live in accordance with how things actually are. Living like this is in fact 'Wisdom'. Verses 22 to 30 declare that 'Wisdom' existed 'from the beginning, before the world began'. The same message as John and Paul declare of Jesus in today's New Testament readings.

Not only was Jesus part of God's plan he was part of God and as Paul states in Colossians Chapter 1 v 16 'all things were created by him and for him'. The heading of these verses from Colossians in the NIV Bible is 'The Supremacy of Christ', as the first born over all creation he is Supreme ruler of us all, there was nothing that he did not have a hand in. Why? The answer is found in v 19 'God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him'. God was pleased with all that he created, pleased to not only be the creator but also the created, to walk the earth to share the joys and the pains of humanity and ultimately to shed his own blood so that those who had not recognized him could be reconciled to him.

Paul was reminding Christians of the truth about who Jesus was, whereas John's Gospel was written to evangelise, to bring to faith, those Jews and Gentiles who did not yet believe 'that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God' (Chapter 20 v 31). What a dramatic and dazzling way to begin 'In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God'! Think how the Jews and Gentiles may have reacted when first hearing or reading this. The Jews were not expecting the Messiah to come in the way Jesus came, they longed for another king like David who would restore God's rule. Then John has the audacity to state that they neither understood, nor recognised that God had actually lived among them. They who had studied the scriptures who knew what to expect, who were the authorities on God and how he works had failed to respond therefore lost out on their 'right to become children of God' (v 12).

Although we cannot be certain precisely who the author of this Gospel was, there is evidence that he had personal knowledge of Jesus, in verse 14 he writes 'We have seen his glory'. So this gives him the confidence to go straight to the heart of his conviction that Jesus was the Messiah, not for him long explanations of genealogy to prove his point of who Jesus was, or details of his physical birth, as in the other three Gospels. So within these first few verses he sets the tone for the rest of his record of the uniqueness of Jesus as the Son of God who came to give light not just to a chosen few but the 'every man' (and woman). The later assertion by Jesus himself that he was the Son of God would eventually be the basis of the charge made against him that would lead to his death. As Christians we know that this in turn led to his Resurrection revealing to us his glory and the glory of God. As the 'children of God' it is our responsibility to declare this, with the confidence of Paul, to those who have yet to recognize him. Wendy Waters

Meditation

Paul's letter to the church in Colosse, a small relatively unimportant city 100 miles east of Ephesus, was written in response to an attractive but false teaching within the congregation. This teaching often referred to as 'the Colossian heresy', although not defined by Paul was probably a mixture of pagan rituals and mystical forms of Jewish piety. The young converts were possibly under pressure to conform to the beliefs and practises of their Jewish and pagan neighbours. We too can find ourselves under such pressures from the secular society in which we live. The recent controversy when the Humanist Society placed slogans on buses stating 'There is probably no God, now stop worrying and enjoy life' brought into the public arena just what some of those pressures might be. There were a variety of responses from Christians to this, many felt affronted, one bus driver risked losing his job by refusing to drive a bus with it on, and others felt

the wide publicity was a good thing because it brought God to the fore. I understand a group of Christians have now produced some counter slogans, no doubt which will upset the Humanists. The issue I have with it is that, taken at face value, it implies Christians spend all their time worrying and do not enjoy life. Now as human's naturally we do worry and sometimes we may not enjoy life, but even in these low moments we can heed Paul's words further on Chapter 1 at verse 23 to:

'continue in your faith, established and firm, not moved from the hope held out in the gospel'

I wonder what St Paul would have used to counter the argument of the Humanists? Perhaps an extract from Colossians Chapter 1 verse 15: 'He is the image of the invisible God, the first born over all creation'? Now that might raise some response from those who cannot reconcile the theory of evolution with the God of creation. The opening words of John's Gospel might raise similar reactions but, like the posters on the buses, they would give us the opportunity to share with others our own understanding of God and his Son Jesus. Wendy Waters

Hymns (*Please distribute Holy Communion and Mission Praise*)

1. 615 Stand up and bless the Lord (Tune Carlisle)
2. 77 Christ triumphant ever reigning
3. 293 I sing the almighty power of God (Tune Jackson)
4. 699 Thou, whose almighty Word (Tune Moscow)

Prayers for Sunday and the Week Ahead

O God, you are both the light and the guide of those who put their trust in you. Grant us in all our doubts and uncertainties grace to ask what you would have us do; that the Spirit wisdom may save us from all false choices, and that in your light we may see light, through Jesus Christ our Lord. William Bright

Lord, I cannot fathom or hold you; I can only ask you to take hold of me. I cannot grasp or contain you in a formula or tradition, I can only ask you to fill me with yourself, and make me part of the mystery of your presence in the world. Angela Ashwin

O God our Creator who gave us all that we are and have; release us from self-love to be able to share what we are, what we know, what we have, with one another and in the world which you love. In the name of Christ who makes this a possibility. Amen

Lord, you make all things new.

Give me fresh energy to face this day's challenges and responsibilities.

Help me to concentrate when my mind wanders.

Prevent me from feeling guilty when I need to take time for myself.

Save me from pride when people praise my efforts.

Renew my desire to serve when my enthusiasm wanes.

Help me to trust you for the things I cannot change or understand.

Let me know your love in my life that it may touch others also.

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



Driving Job Driver wanted two days per week Lansdowne Care Services, The Burys, Margettes Road, Kempston. You will be collecting people in a Ford Transit minibus from around Bedford and taking them to day centre. Contact John Harrison at St Mark's 308735

Methodist Homes for the Aged The Ibbett Trust- Proposal for Extra Care Accommodation

A new planning application has been made to increase the 62 bed Anjulita Court up to nearly 100 beds.

The proposed additional development will provide a new type of Extra Care Accommodation for older people in addition to the special nursing care and dementia care being offered at the care home – Anjulita Court.

Anjulita Court and the new accommodation are intended to provide a facility to meet local needs for care for older people and to offer a community resource for local older residents. The living accommodation available within Anjulita Court is essentially of one type; that of bedrooms each with ensuite shower

room. The purpose of the new proposed accommodation is to widen the range of living units available. The development as a whole would deliver accommodation for the frail elderly in need of residential or nursing care, for older people in need of rehabilitation and respite care and for older people suffering from dementia and in need of residential and/or nursing care. There would be communal dining rooms, living/lounge areas, quiet sitting rooms and the full range of medical, staff and support facilities. Within Anjulita Court will be a healthy living centre and café, which could be used more widely by older members of the local community



Foundation stone laying ceremony on Friday 17th October to mark the construction of Anjulita Court, Brickhill, Bedford. The Bishop of Bedford Rt Rev Richard Inwood and Mrs Brenda Plumbly Trustee of the Ibbett Trust performed the ceremony with Clifton Ibbett.

The advantages of the proposed Extra Care Accommodation

The new accommodation will allow people to live more independently and be part of the community setting rather than being institutionalised. The level of care can be adjusted to meet changing needs of residents. This also means that couples can be more easily kept together, which is not the case when one has to enter a traditional care home, leaving the other partner both lonely and vulnerable. This proposal aims to offer a service that bridges all types of care within one facility. Independent style living will be provided on site with easy access to both on and off site community services. More intensive support will be available as and when required from a menu of MHA managed services.

This proposal will offer another more independent style of living which is becoming an increasingly popular option for older people. This facility would provide a significant opportunity for older people who may require either domiciliary care or an alternative to residential care over the next 5 years. The closure of other care homes within the Bedford area during the last two or three years and the demographic trends generating year on year increase in demand for care support, means that this proposal would help meet an increasing demand for care and support in a unique and financially advantageous way for Bedford Borough Council and people living within the Greater Bedford conurbations.

Chaplaincy Opportunity

Partnership Council this week heard plans for an appointment to be made of a Chaplain for Anjulita Court which will be combined with the post of Methodist Minister in the Partnership. The person appointed would work approximately 6/15ths of their time at Anjulita Court and 9/15ths of their time in the Circuit. The position will be advertised very shortly with the hope that a minister could be appointed in April. The first stage of Anjulita Court is expected to be in operation in October of this year.

Women's Network - The annual Daffodil Day celebration will be held on Monday 2 March, 1.45pm at Methodist Central Hall, Westminster. Please see notice in the Church Foyer for more information.

Art Encounters "Art tours in London with a spiritual perspective". Art Encounters was started by Bishop Christopher and Rev. Joan Crossley in 2008 following requests from many people. They have offered to conduct a visit for members of the Partnership to the National Gallery on Thursday 7th May. Please let us know a.s.a.p. if you are interested so that we give Joan an idea of numbers. John and Sally Gunning. Tel. 305925.

February half term at Putnoe. Storybox will run as usual on Monday 16th, followed at 1.15 by Storybox plus for the 5- 10 year olds. Bible story, craft and games. £1.00

Putnoe Residents Association is holding a Coffee morning Saturday 21 February, 10a -12 at Putnoe Heights Church. Do come along and find out more about the Association, also to meet existing members and the committee.

Saturday 7 March 6.30pm at Putnoe Heights Church. Tickets for Confessions of a Pantomime Dame are available in the Church Office. Super with a choice of Hot Dogs, Chilli Con Carne or Cottage Pie (meat or vegetarian) will be served from 5pm onwards or after the entertainment. Soft drinks will be supplied or bring your own alcohol. Cost of tickets Adults £7. 50, Children £5. Tickets for the entertainment without food can be bought at Adults £6 Children £3. 50. This is a fundraising event in aid of Putnoe Height Church funds. For more information contact Jenny Emsley 360397

Bible in a Year Would you like to read the bible in a year? Sam Cappleman has put together an easy to

follow guide/reading list to help me achieve this goal. For a small donation (perhaps £2) towards Church and Missions funds. I am happy to provide a copy to anyone else who is interested in using this fabulous tool. Contact Sam Ware through Putnoe Heights Church Office.

Table Top Sale Saturday 28th February at Putnoe. Prebooked your table £6.00 (£8.00 on the day) and set up from 9.00 am or join us from 11.00 am, 50p entry and enjoy a light warm lunch, cake and coffee. Items for the church table can be left from Sunday 22nd February and donations of cakes from Friday 27th. . All proceeds to Putnoe Heights Church Fund. Thank you, Liz or Linda

BEH District Women's Network are holding a silk painting day at Priory Methodist from 10.30 -4pm. We aim to make 100 scarves for the European Conference in Glasgow in May. Participants may purchase one themselves. More details -Eileen Davis 01234 215057.

Doris Jefferies would like to thank her friends at church for the lovely flowers and offers of help during the bad weather.

St Marks and Putnoe Heights Lent Course 2009
The Life, Meaning and Teachings of Jesus Starts Tuesday 10 March 2009 at Putnoe Heights Church. Sessions 7.30pm refreshments, 8.00pm start, 9.00pm finish. First session : **The Teaching of Jesus**, What did Jesus really teach? - How did He teach? - What did He mean? Leader: Paul Fricker

Sir William Harpur House A service of Holy Communion takes place on the first Monday of each month at 10.00am. All welcome.

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.

**Stan Lowndes
Billy Wallace**

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

Cut Your Carbon Competition

We have managed to enrol 69 supporters, however we do need many more if we are to win £37,000 in this competition. Please register and help us win funding for solar technology
<http://www.cutyourcarbon.org/group/stmarks>



Forthcoming Funerals

The funeral of Robert Watkins will take place at Bedford Crematorium on Wednesday 18 February at 10.00am