



Methodist
Church

Partnership News

18 March 2007

Mothering Sunday



Church of
England

Partnership Church Services Today

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

9.30am St Mark's - Morning Worship

Preacher -Revd Charles Royden
Leadership - Mrs Delia Shephard
Intercessions – Mrs Morag Stewart

11.00am Putnoe - Morning Worship

Preacher - Revd Charles Royden
Leadership Team - Mr Alan Bayliss
Intercessions—Mr Eddy Peck

Fifth Sunday of Lent- March 25th

9.30am St Mark's - Holy Communion

Preacher – Mr Barry Owen
Leadership Team - Mrs Linda Parry
Intercessions - Mrs Margaret Appleton

11.00am -Putnoe Heights - Holy Communion

Preacher - Mr Barry Owen
Leadership Team - Mrs Jenny Emsley
Intercessions - Mrs Sue Allen

Reading 1: Isaiah 43: 16-21

Reading 2: Phil 3: 4b –14

Reading 3: John 12: 1-8

Thank You

The flowers at St Mark's have been given by Linda and Edward Parry in memory of Edward's mother on her birthday.

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

God of compassion,
whose Son Jesus Christ,
the child of Mary,
shared the life
of a home in Nazareth:
strengthen us each day,
that in sorrow
we may know your presence;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Methodist Worship

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 Bayliss 268101

Treasurer Mr Ian Morse 216428 treasurerph@thisischurch.com

Gift Aid Administrator - Mr John Hitt 404186

Youth & children's worker - Mrs Liz 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 Janet Day 295592

Treasurer - Mr John Day 295592 treasurer@thisischurch.com

Gift Aid Administrator Mr Jim Williams 360605

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.
- 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 based story and singing . Lots of fun,.Contact Liz on 01234 302349
- 2.30 - 4.30pm** Bedford Arts Society at Putnoe Heights contact Malcolm Smith on 01234 400741 (weekly from 25 September 2006)
- 4.15pm - Rosemary Conley Diet & Fitness.** Putnoe Heights. Miriam Adcock 01908 565044
- 4.15 - 6.00pm 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. Sharon Tanner 364710
- 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 next 19 March Contact 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. Judi Staughton 341821
- 10.00am Keep Fit** at Putnoe Heights. Mrs Stileman 822230
- 1.30-3pm Toddlers Playtime** at Putnoe Heights. Contact Andrea 210177 or Magella 325293.
- 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 Mrs C Allen 363878
- 2 - 5pm Police Surgery.** St Mark's Foyer.
- 2.15pm Putnoe Heights Women's Fellowship** - Next meeting ;20 March Mr.J.McGregor—Cecil Higgins Museum. Contact Betty 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. For details of next meeting contact 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
- 7.00 - 8.00 pm Keep Fit** at St. Mark's - Jan Gregory 214107.
- Tuesday - 7pm-9pm MT Karate** [all ages] at Putnoe Heights. Please contact Karen King 07941 264885
- 7.00 - 10pm Card Makers Club** meets fortnightly at St Mark's. Carol Houghton 346718
- 7.30pm Tabernacle of Truth Church** at Putnoe Heights. Bible study & prayers. Revd.Tarr on 360188 or 07866775515
- 7. 45 pm Putnoe Heights Ladies Tuesday Club** - Meets fortnightly. Next meeting 27 March 'Crafts for Easter' Contact Audrey Wilkins 365068 or Margaret Gentle 309043

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
- 10.30 am U3A Art Appreciation** meets fortnightly at Putnoe Heights - For details of next meeting Contact Audrey Hancock 365915.
- Luncheon Club** at Putnoe Heights fortnightly. For details of next meeting 21 March 2007 contact 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 - 6pm Kumon Maths** at Putnoe Heights Mrs Raksha Mistry 01908 392698
- 6.00 pm Brownies** at St Mark's. Mrs Carol Warden 219731
- 6.15pm - 7.45pm Yoga and Relaxation** at Putnoe Heights. contact Racheall Monton 01234 297138
- 6.30 - 7.30 at St Mark's Karate** contact Karen 079412 64885
- 7.00pm Bunyan Bridge** at St. Mark's. Brian Sallows 407725
- 7.00pm Archaeological & Local History Society** meets monthly at Putnoe Heights. Contact Sylvia Woods 365095
- 7pm Putnoe Guild** meets monthly at Putnoe Heights. Janice Loxley 347073
- 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

9.45– 11.30 Chat and Play at St. Mark's. A group for Mums & toddlers. £1.50 for first child + 50p for each extra child over 2years. More details from St. Marks 342613 or Emma Strangwick 211070

1.30pm - 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 Biblebased story and singing . Lots of fun. Contact Emma Strangwick 211070

1.30-3pm Toddler Playtime at Putnoe **Contact Andrea 210177 or Magella 325293.**

2 - 4.30pm Putnoe Bridge Club. Gerald Palmer 345991

4.00 Story box Plus at 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 the 1st Sunday of each month Lots of fun. 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

7.00pm Club 2000 at Putnoe Sheila Jakeman 261935

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

7.30 - 9.30pm Embroiderers' 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 Contact Betty Wyatt 350188

8.00 - 10pm Bedford Writers Circle at St Mark's 1st Thursday each month. Mr Broadhouse 740271

Friday

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 Contact Eve Whitehead 356875

7 - 10pm Bedford Arts Society meets fortnightly at Putnoe Heights from 8 September. Contact Malcolm

Smith 01234 400741

7.30pm Youth Club for age 10-15 at St Mark's Church. Contact PCSO Rowland Gilbey 349179

Saturday

9.00 - 12.00 Stars School of Dance at Putnoe. Contact Esther Sancto 272517 or 07917 582468

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

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 - 3pm Tabernacle of Truth Church at Putnoe Heights - Worship. Contact Revd. Tarr 360188 Mob. 07866775515

6-7.30pm T.N.T. for 9-12 year olds (fortnightly) join us for fellowship, fun, games & outings. At Putnoe. Ring Liz 302349.

6 -7.30pm T.X.T for 13 + fortnightly , join us for fellowship , debate & discussion at Putnoe. Ring Liz 302349

TNT meets again Sunday 25th March at Putnoe for Learning Sign Language

Diary Dates

**St Mark's Church Council – 12 June
Circuit Meeting -**

St Mark's Leadership Team – 9 May 07 at the Vicarage, 26 June Linda's

Putnoe Heights Leadership Team –30 April at Alan Cooper's

St Mark's Church Management Meeting - 24 April, 20 June.

Putnoe Heights Centre Management - 14 May, 16 July

Putnoe Church Council - 11 June

Pastoral Group Meeting – 8 May 07

Churchyard Committee - 6 June 07

Putnoe Heights Mission Group Meeting 28 March 7.30pm at 14 Flint Walk

Partnership Council -

Brickhill Parish Council - 5 April 7 June, 5 July

Deanery Meeting -

Putnoe Heights Children & Youth– 23 April at 1.00pm

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

Fourth Sunday of Lent - Mothering Sunday

Opening Verse of Scripture Isaiah 66.13

As a mother comforts a child so will I comfort you,
says the Lord.

Collect Prayer for the Day

God of love, passionate and strong, tender and careful: watch over us and hold us all the days of our life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. Common Worship Shorter Collect

First Bible Reading - Exodus 2:1-10

Now a man of the house of Levi married a Levite woman, and she became pregnant and gave birth to a son. When she saw that he was a fine child, she hid him for three months. But when she could hide him no longer, she got a papyrus basket for him and coated it with tar and pitch. Then she placed the child in it and put it among the reeds along the bank of the Nile. His sister stood at a distance to see what would happen to him. Then Pharaoh's daughter went down to the Nile to bathe, and her attendants were walking along the river bank. She saw the basket among the reeds and sent her slave girl to get it. She opened it and saw the baby. He was crying, and she felt sorry for him. "This is one of the Hebrew babies," she said. Then his sister asked Pharaoh's daughter, "Shall I go and get one of the Hebrew women to nurse the baby for you?" "Yes, go," she answered. And the girl went and got the baby's mother. Pharaoh's daughter said to her, "Take this baby and nurse him for me, and I will pay you." So the woman took the baby and nursed him. When the child grew older, she took him to Pharaoh's daughter and he became her son. She named him Moses, saying, "I drew him out of the water." (This is the word of the Lord -- **Thanks be to God**)



Second Reading - 2 Corinthians Chapter 1:3-7

Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves have received from God. For just as the sufferings of Christ flow over into our lives, so also through Christ our comfort overflows. If we are distressed, it is for your comfort and salvation; if we are comforted, it is for your comfort, which produces in you patient endurance of the same sufferings we suffer. And our hope for you is firm, because we know that just as you share in our sufferings, so also you share in our comfort. (This is the word of the Lord -- **Thanks be to God**)

Gospel reading - Luke 2: 33-35

The child's father and mother marvelled at what was said about him. Then Simeon blessed them and said to Mary, his mother: "This child is destined to cause the falling and rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be spoken against, so that the thoughts of many hearts will be revealed. And a sword will pierce your own soul too." (This is the word of the Lord -- **Thanks be to God**)

Commentary

In the fourteenth century Julian of Norwich, the first woman to write in modern English, experienced and understood the motherhood of God in her visions. Mothering Sunday is a good day to share her vision and recognise that although we are distinguished by our gender, God is not. Instead God is both mother and father to us .

'As truly as God is Father, so just as truly is he our mother.' Julian of Norwich.

Motherhood was not easy for Mary. She was young, inexperienced and unmarried. Her pregnancy was viewed with suspicion. Her baby was born far from home in difficult and dangerous surroundings.

When she took her son to the temple, only days old, Simeon's prophecy for his future was both ominous and exciting. Jesus' childhood gave her cause for concern and in adulthood, it was clear that his life would become increasingly dangerous and he would be marginalised. Mary had to learn to put her own feelings to one side to support him in his mission. Finally, she suffered the worst thing that can happen to a mother, she had to watch her son die a tortured death.

Meditation Mothering Sunday

The fourth Sunday in Lent is called Mothering Sunday. There are traditions associated with Mothering Sunday in England which date back as long ago as the 16th century. It is told that this was the day when people were encouraged to return to worship in their 'mother church' where they had been baptised. People who usually attended the local parish church, would make a longer journey to the 'mother church' or cathedral of the Diocese. Girls in domestic service would bake to show their mothers their new skills in the form of a gift, traditionally a simnel cake. On this day many girls who were in service were allowed time off from domestic chores to visit their mothers and their family.

Today Mothering Sunday is a popular day when Christians choose to use the occasion to think about all things which concern motherhood. We give thanks for the Church as Mother, the Virgin Mary as the mother of Jesus, we remember that God cares for us like a mother and last but not least we give thanks for our own mothers. Mothering Sunday is the fourth Sunday in Lent and it is a time of special for thanksgiving. Sunday is the one day of joy in Lent, when flowers abound in all churches and when people are allowed a time off from the penitential season. It is also known as Mid-Lent Sunday, Refreshment Sunday or Laetare Sunday. The Latin name of Laetare, means rejoice.

Post Communion Prayer

Loving God, as a mother feeds her children at the breast you feed us in this sacrament with the food and drink of eternal life; help us who have tasted your goodness to grow in grace within the household of faith; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Prayers for Sunday and the week ahead

God of compassion, whose Son Jesus Christ, the child of Mary, shared the life of a home in Nazareth, and drew the whole human family to himself: strengthen us in our daily living that in joy and in sorrow we may know the power of your presence to bring together and to heal; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen
Collect for Mothering Sunday

Merciful Lord, you know our struggles to serve you: where sin spoils our lives and overshadows our hearts, come to our aid and turn us back again; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Common Worship Shorter Collect

Merciful Lord, absolve your people from their offences, that through your bountiful goodness we may all be delivered from the chains of those sins which by frailty we have committed; grant this, heavenly Father, for Jesus Christ's sake, our blessed Lord and Saviour, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

O God, rich in mercy, you so loved the world that, when we were dead in our sins, you sent your only Son for our deliverance. Lifted up from the earth he is light and life; exalted upon the cross, he is truth and salvation. Raise us up with Christ that we may walk as children of Light. We ask this through Christ, who is alive and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, holy and mighty God, for ever and for ever. Amen. *Methodist Worship*

Motherly God, in whose arms are held all who cry out to you. Teach me to open my heart, my home, even when I have little to give to make room for all your children and give them space to grow. *Christian Aid, 1998*

For mothers. Lord Jesus, you know well the blessing an earthly home can bring: Receive our thanks for all the love we have received in our homes, especially from those who have nurtured us from our earliest years. Hear our prayers for mothers everywhere, that they may never lose heart nor ever be taken for granted, but receive from their children the honour and love you showed to your mother, Mary, even as you were suffering on the Cross. Bless and keep them all, for your love's sake. Amen

For those in need Remember, O Lord, all those in need: people with no good food or proper clothes, no home of their own, or no work to do; those who have neither family nor friends and no knowledge of the your love. Supply their needs. Bless those who try to help them and bring us all to trust in you. We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.

God our Father, we ask you to bless all who live alone, those who have lost their partner in marriage, those who have never married, those whose families are grown up and away from home and those who have outlived other members of their families and many of their friends: Be with them to assure them of your love and of their value to you every moment of their lives, and enable them to rejoice in the fellowship of your Church on earth and in heaven; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Don't forget mothers this Sunday

This Mother's Day, the Methodist Relief and Development Fund (MRDF) is highlighting the fact that today over one thousand women worldwide will die in childbirth. The vast majority of these deaths take place in the developing world, where mothers can be up to 100 times more likely than their UK counterparts not to survive giving birth.

"This mother's day we hope that people will remember the families that have needlessly lost a mother today - and the loss of potential that these deaths represent. While we can be glad that in the UK, maternal mortality is increasingly rare, it is a scandal that so many women worldwide are still dying simply because they are poor." said MRDF Director Kirsty Smith.

Lack of affordable and accessible health care is one reason for high maternal mortality rates. In Mali, where approximately 500 women die for every 100,000 live births, MRDF partner organisations aim to tackle this problem in the communities where they work. Local volunteers are trained to safely deliver babies and to provide pre- and post-natal care for women in remote and rural communities. Djouraba Koné, who gave birth to her son Yacou under the care of a trained birth attendant, is just one of the mothers who have benefited from the simple, low-cost techniques which help to improve the chances of survival for both mother and child.

Action is taking place on a global scale as well. In 2000, world leaders agreed the Millennium Development Goals, a set of targets to reduce poverty that included the commitment to reduce maternal mortality rates by three quarters by 2015.

It is now half way to 2015, yet little has changed for mothers in countries like Mali. "To make a lasting difference, we need world leaders to stand by their promises," explained Kirsty Smith. "We're urging you to join MRDF supporters and others on 2 June this year to raise your voice against poverty - and ensure that more women like Djouraba live to see their children grow up."

Churches denounce Trident vote

Leaders from the Baptist Union of Great Britain, the Methodist Church and the United Reformed Church have expressed deep concern over Parliament's call to replace the Trident Nuclear Weapons System.

Anthea Cox, Coordinating Secretary for Public Life and Social Justice for the Methodist Church said; "This seriously undermines the UK's commitment to nuclear non-proliferation and the extent of the backbench rebellion demonstrates that many feel passionately that the Government has got this decision wrong. The Government promised a full public debate but instead this early vote in the House of Commons has rushed the discussion while crucial questions remain unanswered."

Graham Sparkes, Head of Faith and Unity for the Baptist Union said; "The use of nuclear weapons is unthinkable. Rather than invest a vast amount of public money in a system that it can never be right to use, the Government ought to be making clear commitments to peacemaking. Trident can never provide the UK with any real security."

Stuart Dew, Secretary for Church and Society, the United Reformed Church commented: "We are deeply disappointed at the call to renew Trident. The Government has ignored the global demand to rid the world of nuclear weapons, claiming that it is acceptable for some states to hold them while for others it is not. This is a commitment to injustice over peace."

The three Churches made a joint submission to the Defence Committee, arguing that the Government has not fully addressed the security risks associated with a renewal of Trident. They state that it is vital to control the proliferation of weapons technology and they raise concerns over the Government's claim that Trident might provide protection against state-sponsored nuclear terrorism.

Representatives from the Churches were present at the rally in Parliament Square, organised by the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament.

The Lent course will take place at Putnoe 7.30 for 8 start. Finishes at 9pm

21 March Rev Dr Joan Crossley
'Images of heaven and hell in art'

BEH District Craft Day on 31st March at Priory Methodist Church from 10am to 4.15pm. Places to be booked by 12th March please. Further details and booking form from Pam Seymour. Tel: 305695

Help Please! I need to collect plastic sleeving, such as that which brings catalogues and magazines through the post, for a Guide Project I am launching after Easter. Any size will be useable, especially if cut open, not torn and brought it to me flat not folded! I need to collect about 1000 sleeves so any help you can give will be appreciated. I'll let you know when I have sufficient! Marion Prior

St. Mark's Church Pre-School are collecting Sainsbury's Active Kids Vouchers. Please ask friends and family if they could collect them for Pre-School and leave them at the office. Helen

Goldington and Putnoe Children's Centre now has an office at Putnoe Heights Church and will be taking over the management of the Toddlers Playtime group in April. Would you like to support the centre as a Trustee? They are looking for individuals with varied business experience. Meetings are held monthly with all expenses paid and training opportunities are available. Please contact Linda Hoar 782717.

Good Friday Special Putnoe Heights 6 April 12.15—1.30 Easter Craft activities, the Easter Story & refreshments. Last year this event attracted 100 children & their carers if you can help out in any please contact Liz. Make an Easter garden in an ice cream tub competition. Open to all individuals & family groups. Judging at the Good Friday special. Please save empty margarine tubs & empty litre size milk bottles for Easter children's projects.

Faith in Action—Extract from the letter of acknowledgement displayed in the Welcome Area. 'Thank you for the very generous cheque for £500 from Putnoe Heights Church. We are able to backdate your kind gift so it will have been used for food and cholera treatments as

requested, releasing funds now to send out for seed in our next transfer. Please thank everyone on our behalf for their swift, generous and practical response to the needs of those in the Lower Shire. We appreciate their concern immensely.

Line Dancing at St Mark's. Lessons begin 20 April. Further information contact Christine Rushton 01234 782360.

Bedford Care is a Christian organisation set up to provide help for people in need in such areas as domestic support, transport to hospital and small household jobs. It is provided throughout Bedford, Kempston, Bromham, Clapham and Elstow. This requires volunteers who are able to carry out these duties and also to become 'duty officer' to man the phone. There is an urgent need for volunteers so if you can help—please ring the duty officer on 215500, leaving your name and contact details. Thank you Richard Tarleton-Hodgson MBE, Church Liaison Officer.

Churches Together Annual Forum 2007. To be held at St Nichols Church Hall, Barton. We would like our churches to be represented, can you go?

Fancy a dig ? There will be a Brickhill Parish Council Allotments open morning on Saturday 31 March between 10 am and 12 noon This is an opportunity for residents and tenants to visit the site and ask questions/express concerns about the allotments.

Woodland Burial A date has been set for the consecration of the St Albans Woodland Burial Ground—23 April at 2.00pm. Anybody interested is welcome to come along.

Bark, This is an excellent time to think about putting bark on your borders. The introduction of bark helps by retaining water, preventing weeds and breaking down poor soil. The Gardens at St Mark's have been using this for the past 10 years to good effect. St Mark's has just received a new delivery and we are able to supply the bark at a ridiculously cheap rate of 50p per bag—please supply the bag and yourself. Bags can be any size, provided that they can be lifted without mechanical effort.



Putnoe Heights Church
 50th Anniversary Weekend
 16-17th June, 2007
 Putnoe Heights Church was
 opened and dedicated in June
 1957.

A weekend of celebration is being planned to include activities for families and a concert by Kempston Musical Society on Saturday with special services, including a Circuit service followed by a meal on Sunday. We would like to invite past members who have moved away so, if you are in touch with anyone who might be interested, please pass their names and details to Alan Cooper. Throughout the weekend, the church will be open with a display of 50 years of church history. If you have any photographs of weddings, christening or other events that we might borrow please contact Gerry Allen. Please help us to make the weekend a success.

Concert by Bedford Town Concert Band (directed by Kevin Nicholls) and the choirs of Hills and Hazledene Lower schools will be performing at Putnoe Heights on Wednesday 28 March at 7.15pm. The programme is called Songs and Music from Stage, Silver Screen and Television. Tickets Family £6, adult £4 at the door or from Roger Nicholls 357268. Next Concert on Sunday 22 April at 3pm at Putnoe Heights.

Chat and Play a mums & toddlers group has got off to great start. It operates from 9.45—11.30am at St. Mark's Church. £1.50 for first

child + 50p for any others over 2. More details from St. Mark's 342613 or Emma Strangwick 211070.

The Family and friends of Derrick Stoneham invite you to join them for afternoon tea to help Derrick celebrate his 90th birthday. The party will be held in Putnoe Heights large hall on Saturday March 24th from 2.30pm. All will be welcome.

Footprints Rambling Group The next walk is Sunday 1 April (yes really, no fooling!). We will meet outside Houghton Conquest Church (grid ref TL043414) at 2,30pm for a 3½-4 mile circular walk via King's Wood and Houghton House. Boots are essential as it is muddy in places, although we will try to adjust the route to bypass the worst of the mud wherever possible. It's well worth the effort, though, because it's a varied, interesting and beautiful walk with spectacular views. Do join me! Alison Holden. 403551/07710520674.


Stainers Crucifixion Saturday 24 March. Bring and sing with Kempston Musical Society at Transfiguration Church Kempston. Rehearsal 4.30, Tea at 6pm. And performance at 7.30pm. Cost £5 including tea, some copies available, all are 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.

Captain John

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



Rest in Peace



The funeral of Clifford Collier will take place at Bedford Crematorium on Tuesday 20 March 2007 at 10.45 am. *Crossley*

The funeral of Valerie Balderstone will take place at Bedford Crematorium on Thursday 22 March at 3.15pm *Royden*

The funeral of Mona Kate Field will take place at St Mark's Chapel at 11.00am on Friday 23 March *Royden*

The funeral of Donald George Clifton will take place at Bedford Crematorium on Wednesday 28th March at 2.30pm. *Crossley*