

# Partnership News

20 June 2004

12th in Ordinary

Methodist  
Church

The Methodist Church & the Church of England in Partnership at both  
**Putnoe Heights Church & St. Mark's Church**

Church of  
England

## Church Services Today

### 8.30am Service of Holy Communion

Held at both churches

### 9.30am St Mark's Church - Holy Communion

Preacher - Revd Dr Sam Cappleman

Leadership Team - Mrs Linda Parry

Intercessions - Mrs Pat Leusby

### 11.00am Putnoe Heights—Holy Communion

Preacher - Revd Dr Sam Cappleman

Leadership Team - Mr Dave Allen

Intercessions - Mrs Margaret Massey

## Putnoe Ramblers meet today at 2.30pm

### 13 in Ordinary — June 27

### 8.30 am Service of Holy Communion

Held at both churches

### 9.30am St. Mark's Church— Morning Worship

Preacher - The Revd Neil Bramble Chapman

Leadership Team - Mr Ian Farthing

Intercessions —Mr John Stubbs

### 11.00am Putnoe Heights—Morning Worship

Preacher -The Revd Neil Bramble Chapman

Leadership Team - Mr Peter Parker

Intercessions - Ministers

## Thank You

The flowers at Putnoe Heights Church this week have been given by Pam and Bob Burn to celebrate their Golden Wedding Anniversary.

Congratulations to Bob and Pam on this very special and happy occasion.

## Prayer for Sunday

No shadow darkens the friendship which you offer to us, Lord Jesus Christ. No trivial mood or passing fancy alters the constancy of your compassion. No wind of change blows first hot and then cold, to blight the love which you offer. You call us your friends and you are faithful and true to your word. Give us grace to follow in your ways, to be unashamed to own your name Lord Jesus Christ and speak that name to those whom we meet. 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 Neil Bramble-Chapman BA, CTM

(Day off Friday)

12 Hartop Close, Putnoe. MK41 8HE

326643 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

### Time for God Volunteer Kasia Piecyk

St Mark's Flat - 315455

Partnership Website - [www.ThisisChurch.com](http://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 - 1.00pm Monday & Friday

9am - 4pm Tuesday/Wednesday & Thursday

Tel/fax & Answering Service 365630 [www.ThisisChurch.com](http://www.ThisisChurch.com)

Centre Manager Mr Barry Snelson 365630

Leadership Team - Mrs Elizabeth Wyatt 350188

Treasurer Mrs Kathryn Morse 216428

treasurerph@Thisischurch.com

Gift Aid Administrator - Mr John Hitt 404186

Junior Church Co-ordinator - Mrs Samantha Ware 304058

## St. Mark's Church Centre (Open 9am - 5pm)

Tel/fax & Answering Service 342613 [www.ThisisChurch.com](http://www.ThisisChurch.com)

Centre Manager Miss Wendy Rider 342613

Wendy @thisischurch.com

Leadership Team - Mr Ian Farthing 210892

Treasurer - Mr John Day 295592 treasurer@Thisischurch.com

Gift Aid Administrator Mr Jim Williams 360605

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# Regular Weekly Activities - A Guide To Our Churches

## Monday

- 9.30 - 12.00 pm Pre-school** (See website for more details) Mrs Janet Smith 326685 (Putnoe Heights) or Mrs. Helen Harpin **312634** (St. Mark's).
- 10.00 am Day Care Centre** at St. Mark's Church for those with Learning Difficulties. Contact K Stenton 07748 760082
- 12.00pm - 1.00pm Storybox** at Putnoe Heights Church. Service for parents/carers & children under 5. Sandwich lunch, Bible Stories Children's activities songs and prayers, all in one hour from 12-1pm!
- 4.15 - 5.45pm Kumon Maths** at Putnoe Heights. Contact Ms R.Mistry 01908 217555
- 6.00pm Brownies** St Mark's. Mrs Gill Lake 218091
- 6.15 pm Brownies** Putnoe. Alison McEwen 358583
- 7.30pm Sugarcraft Guild** meets first Monday every month at St. Mark's Mrs. Jill Williams 357020
- 7.15 m Guides** -St. Mark's. Mrs Gill Lake 218091
- 7.30- 9.30pm Creative Needles** at Putnoe Heights. Mrs Hayward 307648
- 7.30pm Whist Drive** - At St Mark's each month. Next 21 June Contact Mrs. Judith Stanton. 823313
- 7.30pm Housegroup** 30 The Ridgeway. The home of Eddy & Margaret Peck 267567.
- 8.00 - 9.00 pm 'Get Fit, Stay Fit'** at Putnoe Heights. Mrs Diane Field 404976

## Tuesday

- 9.30am - 12.30pm Candlewicking** (Needlework) at Putnoe Heights - Mrs Olive Shotbolt 267203
- 9.30am - 11.30pm Jo Jingles** at St. Mark's. Music & movement for pre-school children. Contact Renu Elston 01908 282866
- 10.00am - 11.00am - Keep Fit** at Putnoe Heights. Contact Mrs Stileman 822230
- 1.30 -3.00pm Putnoe Heights Church Toddlers Playtime** Contact Geraldine Skeel 406828
- 12 noon - 10.00 pm Slimming World** at St. Mark's. Sessions start at 12, 1.30pm, 4pm, 5.30pm & 7.15pm Contact Val Careless 345213.
- 2.15pm Putnoe Heights Women's Fellowship** - Next meeting - 22 June Mrs O Maines Contact Mrs Betty Wyatt 350188
- 2.15pm Putnoe Heights Men's Fellowship.** Next meetings 29th June—Mr R Downing. The Preservation of old Railway engines, Trolley buses and Paddle Steamers and 5th July - Rev. K Murphy. Contact Lawrence Wyatt 350188.
- 2.30pm Mother Teresa Support Group.** Meets fortnightly at St. Mark's. Wool and knitting needles provided. Contact Mrs Joan Gravett 356911 and Mrs Marjorie Taylor 305709
- 2.30pm Tuesday Afternoon Housegroup.** Meets fortnightly at St. Mark's Church. Contact Mary Stubbs 406784.
- 3.30 - 4.30pm Putnoe Heights Church** Essential Stretch Contact Caroline 07778 898135 or 326096

- 6.30 - 7.30pm Yoga** at Putnoe Heights. Contact Rachel Leontyne 01234 783129
- 6.45pm Guides** at Putnoe Heights - Liz Rix 363607
- 7.00 - 8.00 pm Keep Fit at St. Mark's Church.** Contact Mrs Jan Gregory 214107.
- 7.30 - 9.30pm Bibleway Church** at Putnoe Heights - Bible study & prayers. Contact Pastor Tarr 348438 or 07773354129
- 7. 45 pm Putnoe Heights Ladies Tuesday Club** - Meets fortnightly . Next meeting June 22 Outing. Contact Mrs C Davies 219130
- 8.00pm Tuesday Housegroup** Next meeting 22 June at 16 Swindale , Contact Alison 403551 or Brian 305347.
- 8.30-9.30pm St. Mark's - Qi Gong** (Self help healing) group) - Contact Mr F Steele 355937

## Wednesday

- 10.00 am Childminding Support Group** at Putnoe Heights. Mrs S Longman 313949
- 10.00 am Day Care Centre** Putnoe Height Church for those with Learning Difficulties. Contact K Stenton 07748 760082
- 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
- 12 - 1pm Putnoe Height Church** Total Body Toning Contact Caroline 07778 898135 or 326096
- Luncheon Club** at St. Mark's meets fortnightly. Next one 23 June Contact St. Mark's 342613
- 1.30 - 4.00pm. Bridge Club for the Retired** - Meets weekly at St. Mark's. Mrs Truss Boyce 781133
- 4.15 - 5.45pm Kumon Maths** at Putnoe Heights Contact Ms R Mistry 01908 217555
- 6. - 7.00pm Self Defence at Putnoe** Contact Mr James 07711 687449
- 6.00 -7.30 pm Brownies** at St Mark's Contact Mrs Carol Warden 219731
- 7.00pm St. Mark's Church** Bunyan Bridge. Contact Brian Sallows 407725
- 7-10pm Putnoe Guild** - Putnoe Heights 3rd Wednesday each month. Contact Mrs Dallas 212609
- 7.45 - 8.45pm Kick Boxing** Junior classes St. Mark's. Mr James 07711687449 or 07810234890
- 7.45pm Badminton Club** at Putnoe Heights - all welcome. Contact Ken Marriott 214867

## Thursday

- 9.30am Thursday Prayer Group** at Putnoe Heights in the side chapel. Sylvia Cohen 343424 *Request for prayer can be written in the prayer diary on the information table.*
- 10.30am - 12.00am Brickhill Clinic** at St Mark's with **Fledglings 2.00pm—3.00pm** Contact 267444
- 10.00am - 11.30am Yoga** at Putnoe Heights Contact 244970

**12 - 1.00 pm Storybox** at St Mark's Church.

Service for parents, carers & children under 5. Sandwich lunch, Bible Stories, Children's activities, songs & prayers, all in one hour from 12-1pm.

**1.30 - 3.00 pm St. Mark's Church Toddler Group.** Contact Debbie Coppenhall 356828.

**1.30 -3.00pm Putnoe Heights Church Toddlers Playtime** Contact Geraldine Skeel 406828

**2.30 Bedford Arts Society** at St. Mark's. Contact Celia Maddison 782901

**6.15 pm Weightwatchers at St. Mark's.**

Contact Mrs Margaret Ralph 01767 224978.

**6.15pm Brownies at Putnoe** Mrs S Lewis 300198

**7.30 - 9.30pm Club 2000** Putnoe 2nd Thursday of the month. Contact Mrs Moreton 771261

**6.15 - 7.30pm Bedford Junior Chess Club.** St. Mark's Contact Mr & Mrs Pike 823795

**7.30pm - 11.00pm Bedford Senior Chess Club** at St Mark's Contact Mr Hatton 824988

**7.30 - 9.30pm Embroiderer's Guild** St Mark's- 3rd Thursday month. Contact Mrs K Sage 771525

**7.45pm. Housegroup**-Meets fortnightly at 3 Little Headlands. Newcomers always welcome. Contact Betty Wyatt 350188

**8.00 - 10pm Bedford Writers Circle** meets at St Mark's Church 3rd Thursday each month. Contact Mr John Broadhouse 740271

## Friday

**10.00 am Day Care Centre** at St. Mark's Church Contact K Stenton 07748 760082

**6 -7.00 pm Self Defence at Putnoe** Contact Mr James 0771 687449 or 07810 234890

**7. 30 - 9.30pm** Young Peoples meeting Contact Pastor Tarr 376841

**7.30pm Music Group** St. Mark's Church/monthly

**6.30pm -8.30 pm Dog Training Classes** at St. Mark's Contact Mrs L. Laton 365601

## Saturday

**10.00am - 1.00pm & 2 - 5pm Theatre Train at St Mark's** -dancing acting, singing,- Kate Randle 304865

**7.15pm - 10.30pm Duplicate Bridge** at St Mark's Contact Ann or Peter 212066

**Peace Project Saturday School** at Putnoe Heights. For details contact Mrs.E.Tarr 309881

## Sunday

**1- 3pm & 7-9pm Bibleway Church** at Putnoe Heights - Worship. Contact Pastor Tarr 348438 Mob. 07773354129

# News, Views and Information

## The Calendar

Forthcoming meetings - Please check!

### Putnoe Centre Management

26 July

### St Mark's Church Council

October 13 2004

February 1 2005

### Churchyards Committee

Next meeting Monday 6 September, 10am

### St Mark's Centre Management Meeting

Wednesday 23 June, Monday 26 July,

Wednesday 29 September, Wednesday 10

November

### St Mark's Leadership Team

Wednesday 8 September

### Putnoe Church Council

11 October 2004, 7 February 2005

13 June 2005, 10 October 2005

**Pastoral Group** Wednesday 15 September at 2.30pm

Please note all calendar dates now appear on our church website [www.ThisChurch.com](http://www.ThisChurch.com).

Please advise us if you have a date to be added to the church calendar.

**The Definitive Date !** Bedford Deanery Synod and Bedford North Methodist Circuit Meeting. June 24. This meeting will take place at St Mark's Church on Thursday 24 June at 7.45pm There will be an Anglican/Methodist Eucharist. This will be a con-celebrated communion with The Reverend Trevor Maines and the Reverend Jim Gorringe.

**Wedding Celebrations** On Wednesday 7 July Lunch Club at St. Mark's church will be one of the contributions to the Diamonds Wedding celebrations of Mima & Trevor Noble. Lunch club members and all friends of the happy couple are invited to have lunch on this special occasion. Would all non lunch club members please let Jenny Emsley know by the 30 June Tel 360397

**New Youth Group at Putnoe** If you have shown an interest in leading this group of young people, a meeting has been arranged for 7.30pm, 29 June at 29 Stancliffe Road.

**Flowers in Church** We are extremely grateful when donations are made for the flowers. This may be as a celebration of a happy occasion such as an anniversary or in memory of someone who has died. Contact Miss Marion Prior 303254 (St. Mark's) or Miss Jennie Cooper 404950 (Putnoe Heights)



# Bible Notes

## Ordinary 12

### Opening Verse of Scripture

As the deer pants for streams of water, so my soul pants for you, O God. **Psalm 42 v 1**

### A Collect Prayer

Lord, you have taught us that all our doings without love are nothing worth: send your Holy Spirit and pour into our hearts that most excellent gift of love, the true bond of peace and of all virtues, without which whoever lives is counted dead before you. Grant this for your only Son Jesus Christ's sake, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

### First Bible Reading 1 Kings 19 v 1 - 15

Now Ahab told Jezebel everything Elijah had done and how he had killed all the prophets with the sword. So Jezebel sent a messenger to Elijah to say, May the gods deal with me, be it ever so severely, if by this time tomorrow I do not make your life like that of one of them. Elijah was afraid and ran for his life. When he came to Beersheba in Judah, he left his servant there, while he himself went a day's journey into the desert. He came to a broom tree, sat down under it and prayed that he might die. I have had enough, LORD, he said. Take my life; I am no better than my ancestors. Then he lay down under the tree and fell asleep. All at once an angel touched him and said, Get up and eat. He looked around, and there by his head was a cake of bread baked over hot coals, and a jar of water. He ate and drank and then lay down again. The angel of the LORD came back a second time and touched him and said, Get up and eat, for the journey is too much for you. So he got up and ate and drank. Strengthened by that food, he travelled for forty days and forty nights until he reached Horeb, the mountain of God. There he went into a cave and spent the night. And the word of the LORD came to him: What are you doing here, Elijah? He replied, I have been very zealous for the LORD God Almighty. The Israelites have rejected your covenant, broken down your altars, and put your prophets to death with the sword. I am the only one left, and now they are trying to kill me too. The LORD said, Go out and stand on the mountain in the presence of the LORD, for the LORD is about to pass by. Then a great and powerful wind tore the mountains apart and shattered the rocks before the LORD, but the LORD was not in the wind. After the wind there was an earthquake, but the LORD was not in the earthquake. After the earthquake came a fire, but the LORD was not in the fire. And after the fire came a gentle whisper. When Elijah heard it, he pulled his cloak over his face and went out and stood at the mouth of the cave. Then a voice said to him, What are you doing here, Elijah? He replied, I have been very zealous for the LORD God Almighty. The Israelites have rejected your covenant, broken down your altars, and put your prophets to death with the sword. I am the only one left, and now they are trying to kill me too. The LORD said to him, Go back the way you came, and go to the Desert of Damascus. When you get there, anoint Hazael king over Aram. (This is the word of the Lord -- **Thanks be to God**)

### Second Reading Galatians Chapter 3:22-29

Before this faith came, we were held prisoners by the law, locked up until faith should be revealed. So the law was put in charge to lead us to Christ that we might be justified by faith. Now that faith has come, we are no longer under the supervision of the law. You are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus, for all of you who were baptised into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male nor female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. If you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise. (This is the word of the Lord -- **Thanks be to God**)

### **Gospel Reading Luke Chapter 8:26 -39 ( When announced—Glory to Christ our Saviour)**

They sailed to the region of the Gerasenes, which is across the lake from Galilee. When Jesus stepped ashore, he was met by a demon-possessed man from the town. For a long time this man had not worn clothes or lived in a house, but had lived in the tombs.

When he saw Jesus, he cried out and fell at his feet, shouting at the top of his voice, "What do you want with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I beg you, don't torture me!" For Jesus had commanded the evil spirit to come out of the man. Many times it had seized him, and though he was chained hand and foot and kept under guard, he had broken his chains and had been driven by the demon into solitary places. Jesus asked him, "What is your name?" "Legion," he replied, because many demons had gone into him.

And they begged him repeatedly not to order them to go into the Abyss. A large herd of pigs was feeding there on the hillside. The demons begged Jesus to let them go into them, and he gave them permission. When the demons came out of the man, they went into the pigs, and the herd rushed down the steep bank into the lake and was drowned. When those tending the pigs saw what had happened, they ran off and reported this in the town and countryside, and the people went out to see what had happened. When they came to Jesus, they found the man from whom the demons had gone out, sitting at Jesus' feet, dressed and in his right mind; and they were afraid. Those who had seen it told the people how the demon-possessed man had been cured. Then all the people of the region of the Gerasenes asked Jesus to leave them, because they were overcome with fear. So he got into the boat and left.

The man from whom the demons had gone out begged to go with him, but Jesus sent him away, saying, "Return home and tell how much God has done for you." So the man went away and told all over town how much Jesus had done for him.

(This is the Gospel of Christ - **Praise to Christ our Lord**)

### **Post Communion Prayer**

Loving Father, we thank you for feeding us at the supper of your Son: sustain us with your Spirit, that we may serve you here on earth until our joy is complete in heaven, and we share in the eternal banquet with Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

### **Hymns (Please distribute Mission Praise and Communion Booklets)**

Lord for the years, **428**; For I'm building a people of power, **151**; Breathe on me breath of God, **67**; Guide me O thou great Jehovah, **201**

### **Commentary Liberation and Freedom**

The mission in Gentile territory is more than a triumph of good over evil. In travelling to the other side of the lake and exorcising the demons from the Gerasene man, Jesus demonstrates that His freedom and salvation is for all. No one is beyond His love and salvation, not even those the Jews would have thought beyond redemption. Jesus is all-powerful and all the forces of the ritually unclean Gentile world have been overcome. There can be no stronger demonstration that everyone is included in God's saving plan for the world. Sadly the reaction of the majority of the population to this newfound liberation and salvation is strange. Perhaps failing to understand what's going on they react with fear and ask Jesus to leave. People always have the right to choose. The offer of salvation is open to all, not all will accept. The task that Jesus calls us to, is to present His gospel to the world with our words and our lives, sometimes in places we don't expect. The task of salvation is His alone and no one is beyond His love. Even in a world where people often seem possessed and obsessed by material things or entombed by events or circumstances God can, and does, break through, to bring freedom, peace and salvation. However we imagine the powers that oppress people, Jesus came to bring liberation from them.

Elijah certainly felt oppressed and frightened by the powers of darkness that surrounded Jezebel, Ahab's wife and a religious fanatic who is furious with Elijah for killing the prophets of Baal and as a result has threatened that within a day she will kill him. Fear and exhaustion generated self destructive depression. But when Elijah focuses on God, rather than being oppressed and frightened, he has a new freedom and is without fear.

Ironically sometimes it's the very presence of Jesus that makes people feel uncomfortable and even a little bit fearful. Sometimes this can be because He begins to challenge long held beliefs and preconceptions or perhaps because the way we live is far from the ideal God intends for our lives. Perhaps we all need to hear the God's challenge to Elijah in our own lives – 'What are you doing here?' When we step back from all the frenzied activity and listen to the whisper which is God's voice we will hear again His commission for us. Like Elijah, we have to trust and obey as we move forward along our journey of living out our faith.

God sometimes chooses the strangest people, in the strangest circumstances to do His work. In the gospel reading we see Jesus instructing the Gerasene man to return to his former home, and in so doing calling him to a new vocation, giving him a new purpose and point to his life. Under Jesus' direct instruction, the Gerasene demoniac becomes the first missionary to the Gentiles. Elijah was a lonely and frightened man, full of questions about his faith and even his reason for living. If God can use people like this, how might He want to use us? *Sam Cappleman*

### **Meditation**

It is likely that the story of the Gerasenes demoniac had circulated for some time before it is recorded in Mark. Among Christians with a strongly Jewish background the story contained potent symbols. It took place in Gentile territory, not a holy land. Pigs are unclean animals. Cemeteries were the abode of spirits, to be avoided in darkness. 'Legion' was not a term meaning many, but a designation for one of Rome's armies. The one stationed in Palestine had a boar on its standard. The sea was a place of danger, an abode of demonic powers. For people within such a system of values Jesus, by this act, has defied the forces of the Gentile world and exorcised the Gentile land.

### **Prayers for Sunday and the week ahead**

O God, the King of Righteousness, lead us we pray, in the way of justice and of peace. Inspire us to break down all oppression and wrong, to gain for everyone their reward, and from every one their due service; that each may live for all, and all may care for each, in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

Almighty God, the fountain of all wisdom, you know our needs before we ask, and our ignorance in our asking; have compassion on our weakness, and give us those things which for our unworthiness we dare not, and for our blindness we cannot ask, for the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

Lord, Jesus Christ, let me seek you by desiring you, and let me desire you by seeking you. Let me find you by loving you, and love you in finding you. **Amen.** *St Anselm*

The God of peace, who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the eternal covenant, make you perfect in every good work to do his will, working in you that which is well-pleasing in his sight; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. **Amen**

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### **Celestial Chef**

God is the most celestial chef of all time. His restaurant is first class. His ingredients are the freshest and purest—no pesticides on His farm. He is *not limited* by our orders. He picks the menu. He grows the ingredients.

The dirtiest, most insane man can walk into His place and receive the same individual, lovingly prepared feast as the saint who has spent a lifetime chanting "Hallelujahs" at the top of his/her voice.

Our meal and its quality are not dictated by our requests and demands. He knows the ingredient each individual needs. He knows our intolerances and allergies. He will never serve us poison. He will include a sticky toffee pudding of a treat and is sure to introduce us to new and unusual flavours that we would never consider trying of our own volition.

There may be an ingredient we do not like the taste of. As a child I never appreciated the taste of brussell sprouts—it is only through my Mums insistence of there always being one on my plate, along with kind words of "One day you might try them and like them" that has led me to a full and brussels sprout filled adulthood! One things a definite...His meal is the most balanced, interesting, lovingly prepared, freshest, healthiest thing that can ever be served.

DEAR Lord, give me the guts to keep trying what you serve, especially on the days we don't like the taste very much.! *(Written by Kristin Brindle, submitted by Peter Bailey).*

# News, Views and Information

**Goodbye and Thank You.** Unfortunately my year in Bedford is over and I would like to say 'Thank You' to everyone for all your support and generosity, for inviting me into your homes and sharing your fellowship with me. Special thanks go to Wendy and Joan and all the people whom I have worked with for giving me such a wonderful experience. I hope to return to England and meet up with you all again soon. God bless. **Kasia.**

**Wanted.** Person to work in Hazeldene Heights Pre-school. Position temporary for 6 months may become permanent. Apply in writing to the Headteacher - Mrs Janet Smith. Closing date Friday 25 June.

**Rotas.** Rotas are available this morning for both churches. Please check the rota for any errors and omissions. Please remember that nobody is ever taken off a rota—sometimes mistakes can be made!

**Church Council News**—Both of our church councils met this week. We heard of some exciting and important new initiatives in the Partnership.

**Youth Group.** There will be a new youth group starting in September, which will be for children up to the age of 13 years. The new group will be called TNT (The Nearly Teens) and impetus for this group has come from the God Talk meeting at Putnoe.

**Bereavement Support.** There will be another new group starting in September and meeting on Wednesday afternoons at St Mark's. It is specifically for those who have been bereaved and it will provide support and encouragement. We are sending invitations to all who have been bereaved over about 10 years and advertising in the local press.

**Partnership Review.** The Partnership will soon be having a review process, a report will be presented to the Bedfordshire Ecumenical Committee. We also understand that The Reverend Colin Davey is to be asked to be our Link Person to the Bedfordshire Ecumenical Committee.

**Putnoe Heights Church Council** heard an update on proposals to provide a new heating/cooling system for the church and progress on the plans for the chapel.

**St Mark's Church Council** thanked Joan Crossley and Dave Allen for their tremendous work to organise the Fun Run. This was on target to raise a substantial sum for the new extension.

Discussion took place about the possibility of putting Partnership News on the church website. If you have any thoughts please speak to Charles Royden

**Putnoe Ramblers** meet today at 2.30pm at Putnoe Heights Church for an easy 4 mile walk. Details Eddy&Margaret Peck Tel: 267567

**Partnership Traders.** We have now ceased the Partnership Traders Scheme and traders have been asked to stop issuing vouchers. We will however now take paid advertising to sponsor the cost of an edition of Partnership News. Please contact St Mark's Church Office for details.

## **The Anglican Methodist Covenant**

Within the St Albans Diocese and the Methodist District, steps are now being taken to put flesh on the bones of the Covenant. A small group has been convened by the Anglican and Methodist Ecumenical Officers at the behest of the Bishop and Chairman to put together proposals. The membership includes lay people and clergy as well as a URC Minister.

The main part of the work will be directed to all those many churches which do not enjoy the same close covenanted relationship which we enjoy in the Partnership. However consideration is also being given to exploring ways in which the existing Anglican/Methodist LEP's can play a greater part in encouraging closer relationships between the two denominations.

Nationally the Anglican Church has issued guidance about the application of one of the two Ecumenical Canons (Rules which govern services involving Methodist Ministers and Lay Preachers. The Partnership is subject to a separate ecumenical canon). It is hoped that in due course Bishop Christopher will be able to authorise many more services in Church of England Parish Churches in which Methodists will take part or indeed lead. Consideration is also being given to closer links in the further training of ministers and priests, as well as readers and local preachers. An enlargement of the Diocesan monthly prayer cycle to include Methodist concerns is also being explored. A regular gathering of Rural Deans and Circuit Superintendents, hosted by Bishop Richard and Rev Anne Brown has been established in the county. The first meeting of the potential Ecumenical Circuit/Deanery is to be held at St Mark's on June 24. This is another important step in the whole process. John Stubbs. Methodist Ecumenical Officer.

**A C of E School** was ridiculed in newspapers for a ban on home made cake sales. The headteacher had however received health and safety guidelines from the local education authority advising avoidance of selling home made products which carried a higher than normal risk of food related illnesses. These included dairy products, eggs, fish and meat. 'The person who provides the food, the school and the county council could be liable if somebody became ill as a result of food that had been prepared or stored incorrectly.'

## The Summer Solstice - This week!

Our planet takes 365 days to orbit the sun - the basis of our calendar year. The Earth's axis is tilted at an angle of 23.5 degrees. This means that different parts of the globe receive varying

amounts of sunlight during the year, creating the seasons.

The shortest day and longest night occur on December 22, the Winter Solstice. The longest day and the shortest night occurs this week, 21st June, the longest day of the year. It is called the Summer Solstice.

For those living in the northern hemisphere, the Summer Solstice is the day on which the earth, spinning on its axis, has its North Pole 'tipped' as far as it will go to face the sun. Because of this 'tipping' towards the Sun, the northern hemisphere receives the longest hours of daylight of the year.

The further north or south you live in the world, the more pronounced the seasons are. For example in the far north, Alaska has sunshine 24 hours a day during their summer time. If you live near the equator, the Sun doesn't shift up and down in the sky so much. This means that the length of day and temperature doesn't vary as much. So countries near the equator only have two seasons, rainy and dry.

No one knows why the Earth's axis is tilted by 23.5

degrees. Whatever the reason, it's a goof thing - if the earth did not tilt, countries near the poles would be cold and dark all year round. If it tilted too much, the seasons would be very extreme - like on the planet Uranus. There the winter lasts for 42 years in total darkness.

**Lord God, Creator of light, at the rising of your sun each morning, let the greatest of all lights - your love - rise like the Sun, within my heart.**

*(From the Armenian Liturgy)*

**Brickhill Parish Council.** Elections took place last week to the newly formed Brickhill Parish Council. A public petition to the Secretary of State forced the Borough Council to make provision for a Parish Council after an application by the Urban Community Council for Parish status had been turned down. Details of future Parish Council meetings will be printed in Partnership News. The first meeting will take place on June 22 at 7.30pm in Brickhill Community Centre, Avon Drive.

## Brickhill Parish Council - Results 2004

Name	Party	Votes	
Mark Fitzpatrick	Lib Dem	1575	Elected
Andrew McConnell	Tory	1557	Elected
Peter Hand	Tory	1455	Elected
Lynne Faulkner	Tory	1433	Elected
Nick Hills	Lib Dem	1408	Elected
Charles Royden	Lib Dem	1352	Elected
Peter Blakeman	Lib Dem	1274	Elected
Pat Ovenell	Lib Dem	1220	Elected
Wendy Rider	Lib Dem	1215	Elected
Ray Seymour	Lib Dem	1199	Elected
Desmond Clarke	Lib Dem	1187	Elected
Howard Humphries	Tory	1161	Elected
Ted Henson	Lib Dem	1149	Elected
Haughton	Tory	1123	
Lawrence	Tory	1084	
R Mercer	Tory	1073	
D Mercer	Tory	1069	
Lipner	Tory	1036	
Tipple	Tory	1026	
Meehan	Tory	1015	
Room	Tory	979	
Karl Sorembik	Tory	890	
Helen Rose	Labour	500	

## 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.

## Bill Phillips Violet Ralph

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

## The following funerals have been arranged

**The funeral of Edith Evelyn Cox** will take place at Bedford Crematorium on Monday 21 June at 12.15pm

**The funeral of Hilda Rose Gazeley** will take place at Bedford Crematorium on Thursday 24th June at 12.15pm