



Methodist  
Church

# Partnership News

20th May 2007

## Sunday after Ascension



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 - Holy Communion

Preacher - The Reverend Jim Gartside  
Leadership - Mrs Delia Shephard  
Intercessions - Mr J Stubbs

#### 11.00am Putnoe - Holy Communion

Preacher - The Reverend Jim Gartside  
Leadership Team - Mrs Jenny Emsley  
Intercessions - Mrs Claire Peck

### Pentecost - 27 May

#### 9.30am St Mark's - Morning Worship

Preacher - Revd Dr Sam Cappleman  
Leadership Team - Mrs Morag Stewart  
Intercessions - Mr John Tatman

#### 11.00am - Putnoe Heights - Morning Worship

Preacher - Revd Dr Sam Cappleman  
Leadership Team - Mrs Wendy Nash  
Intercessions - Mrs Sylvia Cohen

Reading 1: Acts 2: 1-21

Reading 2: Romans 8: 14-17

Reading 3: John 14: 8-17

### Thank You

The flowers at Putnoe Heights Church this week have been given in loving memory of Eileen Cooper on her birthday (14th May), with love from husband Bill and all the family.

The flowers at St Mark's this week have been given by Peter Sachro in memory of his friend and companion Margaret Gwynne.

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

Let me see you, O Lord,  
in those I meet today.  
In serving them may I minister to you.  
May I recognise you disguised  
in the unattractive and the irritable.  
Bear with my faults, O Lord, and look upon  
the good intentions of my heart.  
Increase my faith and bless my work, now and  
for ever. Amen. *Mother Theresa of Calcutta*

### 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](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—5pm Monday to Friday

Tel/fax & Answering Service 365630 putnoe@thisischurch.com

Centre Manager Mr Barry Snelson 365630 & 344417

Leadership Team Mr Alan Cooper 365302 Mob 07989367604

Treasurer Mr Ian Morse 216428 treasurerph@thisischurch.com

Gift Aid Administrator - Mr John Hitt 404186

Youth & children's worker - Mrs 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 Linda Parry 216724

Treasurer - Mr Ian Farthing 210892 treasurer@thisischurch.com

Gift Aid Administrator Mr Jim Williams 360605

# Regular Weekly Activities - A Guide To Our Churches

## Monday

**9.30-12.00pm Mon-Fri Putnoe Heights Pre-school**  
Headteacher Mrs Janet Smith ☎326685

**8.30-5.30pm Mon-Fri St Mark's Pre-school**  
Headteacher Mrs. Helen Harpin ☎312634  
(See website for more details)

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

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

**12.00-1.00pm 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. ☎Liz 302349

**2.30-4.30pm Bedford Arts Society** at Putnoe Heights  
Malcolm Smith ☎01234 400741 (weekly from 25 September 2006)

**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. Miriam Adcock ☎01908 565044

**4.15-6.00pm Kumon Maths** Putnoe Heights.  
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.** Putnoe Heights Karen Simpson ☎244970

**7.30pm Creative Needles.** Putnoe Heights.  
Jacky Hayward ☎307648.

**7.30pm Whist Drive.** St Mark's each month next 21 May  
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). Putnoe Heights.  
Judi Staughton ☎341821

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

**10.00am Keep Fit.** Putnoe Heights. Mrs Stileman  
☎822230

**1.30-3pm Toddlers Playtime.** Putnoe Heights.  
Andrea ☎210177 or Majella ☎325293.

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

**2.00pm U3A Book Group.** St Mark's (3rd Tuesday only)  
Mrs Burman ☎364723

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

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

**2.15pm Putnoe Heights Women's Fellowship** - Next  
meeting Mission Mrs.A.Alderman Betty Wyatt ☎350188.

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

**2.30pm Tuesday Afternoon Housegroup.** St Mark's

Meets fortnightly. Mary Stubbs ☎406784.

**3.45-5.30pm Stars School of Dance.** Putnoe Heights.  
Esther Sancto ☎272517 or ☎07917 0582468.

**6.30 - 7.30pm Yoga** Putnoe Heights.  
Rachel Leontyne ☎783129

**7.00pm Hearts in Beds Cardiac Support Group** at St  
Mark's, ( 1st Tuesday ) Contact Kate Parsons 351150

**7-8pm Keep Fit.** St. Mark's Jan Gregory ☎214107.

**7-9pm MT Karate** [all ages] Putnoe Heights.  
Karen King ☎07941 264885

**7- 10pm Card Makers Club** meets fortnightly at St Mark's.  
Carol Houghton ☎346718

**7.30pm Tabernacle of Truth Church.** Putnoe Heights.  
Bible study & prayers. Revd.Tarr ☎360188 or  
07866775515

**7.30-10.30pm Chartered Management Institute** St Mks

**7.45pm Putnoe Heights Ladies Tuesday Club** - Meets  
fortnightly. Next meeting 22 May Outing Details : Audrey  
Wilkins☎365068 or Margaret Gentle ☎309043

## Wednesday

**9.00am Paint Tots** at St Mark's Jacqui Harrahan ☎  
824475

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

**9.30am - Body Control Pilates.** Putnoe Heights.  
Stephanie Smith ☎357787.

**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  
30 May 2007 Putnoe Heights Office ☎365630

**1.00-3pm Police Surgery** at Putnoe Heights .

**1.30-4.00pm. Bridge Club for the Retired.** St. Mark's. Mr  
Barnes ☎261811

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

**4.15-6pm Kumon Maths.** Putnoe Heights  
Mrs Raksha Mistry ☎01908 392698

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

**6.15-7.45pm Yoga and Relaxation** Putnoe Heights  
Racheall Monton ☎01234 297138

**6.30-7.30pm Karate.** St Mark's Karen ☎079412 64885

**7.00pm Bunyan Bridge.** St. Mark's

Brian Sallows ☎407725

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

**7.00pm Yoga** St Mark's Dorothy Turner ☎721763

**7.00pm Putnoe Guild** meets monthly. Putnoe Heights.  
Janice ☎Loxley 347073

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

**8.00-10.00pm Tudor Reeds Folk Dance Club** St Mark's,  
1st ,3rd & 5th Wednesday. More details Graham 406359  
or Danny 401668.

**8.00pm Bedford Wine and Social Club** St Mark's (1st  
week) Mrs Gansfield ☎215016

## Thursday

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

**9.30am-12.30 Jo Jingles.** St. Mark's. Music & movement for pre-school children. Jayne Phillips ☎01582 485333

**9.45am Yoga** Putnoe Heights Karen Simpson ☎244970

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

**1.30pm-3.00pm NHS Baby Clinic.** St. Mark's ☎267444

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

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

**2- 4.30pm Putnoe Bridge Club.** Gerald Palmer ☎345991

**5.30-7.30pm Police Surgery.** St Mark's Foyer.

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

Mrs Margaret Ralph ☎01767 224978.

**6.15pm Brownies.** Putnoe Heights Helga Nash ☎218521

**6.15pm Bedford Junior Chess Club.** St. Mark's

Mr & Mrs Pike ☎823795

**7.00pm Club 2000** Putnoe Heights

Sheila Jakeman ☎261935

**7-9pm U3A Folk & Poetry Group.** St Mark's (Fortnightly starting from 26th April) Contact Doug Ovenden ☎825059

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

**7.30-9.30pm Embroiderers' Guild** St Mark's 3rd Thursday of the month. Mrs E Rigby ☎344442

**7.30-9.30pm Tabernacle of Truth Church** Putnoe Heights Bible Studies every 2 Thursday- Pastor Tarr ☎360188

**7.45pm Housegroup** meets fortnightly Betty Wyatt ☎350188

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

**8.00-10.00pm Magpies Women's Group** St Mark's (2nd & 4th weeks) Mrs Cotchin ☎402089

**8.00pm Brickhill Wives** St Mark's (1st and 3rd weeks) Mrs Woods ☎404702

## Friday

**9.30am & 12.30pm U3A Photography Group** (4th week) Joyce Fildes ☎353086

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

**1.30-2pm Stars School of Dance** Putnoe Heights Contact Esther Sancto ☎272517 or ☎07917 582468

**2.00pm U3A Gardening Group** Putnoe Heights Eve Whitehead ☎356875

**6.30-9.00pm Line Dancing.** St Mark's A night of fun Christine Rushton ☎782360

**7-10pm Bedford Arts Society** fortnightly Putnoe Heights from 8 September. Malcolm Smith ☎01234 400741

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

## Saturday

**9.00- 12.00pm Stars School of Dance.** Putnoe Esther Sancto ☎272517 or ☎07917 582468

**10.00am - 1.00pm Theatretrain** St Mark's. Dancing acting, singing. Kate Randle ☎01234 782414

**7.15-10.30pm Duplicate Bridge.** St Mark's Ann or Peter ☎212066

## Sunday

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

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

**1 - 3pm Tabernacle of Truth Church** Putnoe Heights Revd. Tarr ☎360188 or ☎07866775515

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

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

## Diary Dates

**St Mark's Church Council – 12 June**

**St Mark's Leadership Team – 26 June** Linda Parry

**Putnoe Heights Leadership Team –25 June** at Lawrence Wyatt's.

**St Mark's Church Management Meeting - 20 June.**

**Putnoe Heights Centre Management - 16 July**

**Putnoe Church Council -**

**Pastoral Group Meeting –**

**Churchyard Committee - 6 June**

**Putnoe Heights Mission Group Meeting**

Wednesday 13 June, 14 Flint Way.

**Partnership Council -**

**Brickhill Parish Council**

Meetings on 7 June, 5 July

**Deanery Meeting - 24 May 7.30pm** at All Saints

**Circuit Meeting 14 June** at St Mark's

**Putnoe Heights Children & Youth–**

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



## Telecare

It is extremely helpful to the Ministers to be able to have feed back, especially if somebody is poorly or in hospital. If you have not yet put your name down, please do so.

# Seventh Sunday of Easter

## Opening Verse - Psalm 47

Clap your hands, all you nations; shout to God with cries of joy. God has ascended amid shouts of joy. God reigns over the nations; he is seated on his holy throne.

## Collect Prayer for the Day

God of immeasurable grace, your Spirit has from age to age, confirmed your work of salvation in the hearts of those who love you. Grant to your people a true spirit of worship, that renewed in their calling, they might achieve the vision you have given to them. May we become your people, united and equipped to proclaim the good news of salvation for all, by faith in our Lord Jesus Christ, who reigns with you, and the Holy Spirit One God, now and for ever Amen.

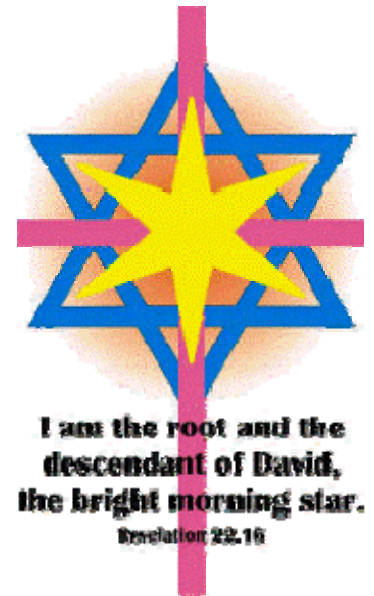
## First Bible Reading - Acts 16: 16– 34

Once when we were going to the place of prayer, we were met by a slave girl who had a spirit by which she predicted the future. She earned a great deal of money for her owners by fortune-telling. This girl followed Paul and the rest of us, shouting, "These men are servants of the Most High God, who are telling you the way to be saved." She kept this up for many days. Finally Paul became so troubled that he turned around and said to the spirit, "In the name of Jesus Christ I command you to come out of her!" At that moment the spirit left her. When the owners of the slave girl realized that their hope of making money was gone, they seized Paul and Silas and dragged them into the marketplace to face the authorities. They brought them before the magistrates and said, "These men are Jews, and are throwing our city into an uproar by advocating customs unlawful for us Romans to accept or practice." The crowd joined in the attack against Paul and Silas, and the magistrates ordered them to be stripped and beaten. After they had been severely flogged, they were thrown into prison, and the jailer was commanded to guard them carefully. Upon receiving such orders, he put them in the inner cell and fastened their feet in the stocks. About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the other prisoners were listening to them. Suddenly there was such a violent earthquake that the foundations of the prison were shaken. At once all the prison doors flew open, and everybody's chains came loose. The jailer woke up, and when he saw the prison doors open, he drew his sword and was about to kill himself because he thought the prisoners had escaped. But Paul shouted, "Don't harm yourself! We are all here!" The jailer called for lights, rushed in and fell trembling before Paul and Silas. He then brought them out and asked, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?" They replied, "Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved--you and your household." Then they spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all the others in his house. At that hour of the night the jailer took them and washed their wounds; then immediately he and all his family were baptized. The jailer brought them into his house and set a meal before them; he was filled with joy because he had come to believe in God--he and his whole family.

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

## Second Bible Reading - Revelation 22:12-14,16,17,20,21

Behold, I am coming soon! My reward is with me, and I will give to everyone according to what he has done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last, the Beginning and the End. "Blessed are those who wash their robes, that they may have the right to the tree of life and may go through the gates into the city. Outside are the dogs, those who practice magic arts, the sexually immoral, the murderers, the idolaters and everyone who loves and practices falsehood. "I, Jesus, have sent my angel to give you this testimony for the churches.





I am the Root and the Offspring of David, and the bright Morning Star." The Spirit and the bride say, "Come!" And let him who hears say, "Come!" Whoever is thirsty, let him come; and whoever wishes, let him take the free gift of the water of life. I warn everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: If anyone adds anything to them, God will add to him the plagues described in this book. And if anyone takes words away from this book of prophecy, God will take away from him his share in the tree of life and in the holy city, which are described in this book. He who testifies to these things says, "Yes, I am coming soon." Amen. Come, Lord Jesus. The grace of the Lord Jesus be with God's people. Amen.  
(This is the word of the Lord -- **Thanks be to God**)

### **Third Bible Reading - John 17: 20-26**

(After the Gospel is announced—**Glory to Christ our Saviour**)

My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me. I have given them the glory that you gave me, that they may be one as we are one: I in them and you in me. May they be brought to complete unity to let the world know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me. "Father, I want those you have given me to be with me where I am, and to see my glory, the glory you have given me because you loved me before the creation of the world. "Righteous Father, though the world does not know you, I know you, and they know that you have sent me. I have made you known to them, and will continue to make you known in order that the love you have for me may be in them and that I myself may be in them."

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

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

1. Rejoice the Lord is king 575 MP
2. Soon and very soon 605
3. Lord enthroned in heavenly splendour 431
4. Lord of the Church 442 MP

### **Commentary**

Have you ever entered one of those competitions on cereal packets or some other commodity from the supermarket. They ask you simple questions and then conclude with a final challenge to write a slogan. It will say something like 'now describe in less than 10 words why Shreddies are the best cereal.' It focuses the mind to try and make a simple and easy to understand slogan which encapsulates the goodness of Shreddies.

When we have to boil things down in this way, it helps us to get rid of the unimportant stuff and go to the heart of the matter. This is what marketing is all about, getting to the core of the product and then explaining it in a few words, so that it captures the imagination and sells!

I suspect that if the church employed marketing consultants, they would pronounce the verdict that we are failing to get our message across. Most people 'in the street' have very little clue what the church is really about. Ask the typical man on the bus what Methodists believe and he is more likely to say something like 'they don't drink,' than any theological understanding about grace. If he was asked the same question about Anglicans he would probably start thinking about internal divisions over sexuality, Anglicans don't like women or homosexuals.

There is an urgent need for Christians to eradicate the negative and accentuate the positive. We have to recognise our shared common goals, the things which really matter, and then find ways of getting our core message across. Too much of our time is wasted on internal struggle and strife, vociferous debates in which we condemn particular things, or people or ideas. We seem so much better at putting across the message of what we hate or don't approve of!

This is not very profound, but the church has found it very difficult to communicate its core belief. It is no surprise that because Christian people have failed to put across our message in an understandable way, others have failed to catch on. This might seem like a call for sound bite religion, and perhaps it is, but we need to recognise that Jesus was excellent at sound bites! Jesus deliberately took very complicated messages and reduced them to a few words, a simple picture or even a short story. People instantly knew the things he was about - love, forgiveness and living a better life, he made such truths understandable for all.

In the passage from the Gospel of John today Jesus draws attention to one of these core principles of being a Christian. Jesus gives the same simple treatment to the complicated idea of unity, but like all of his teaching whilst it is simple, it is never simplistic.

Somebody asked me recently 'what does it mean to be a ecumenical.' I suppose I could have gone to great lengths to explain the development of the ecumenical message, but I simply drew attention to the words of Jesus from the reading in John's Gospel today. Jesus makes it clear that he expects his followers to be drawn together in unity. He captures this principle with the wonderful catch phrase 'that they may be one as we are one'. If this had been a contest to find a slogan, it would have been a surefire winner. This is what it means to be ecumenical, it is obedience to the deep desire of Jesus that his followers should be united. It is not a suggestion, it is not a complicated theological idea, it is just the straightforward prayer of Christ. When we read these words we might wonder what all the fuss has been about, with different denominations and Christian churches. To be faithful to Christ, our divisions must fall and we must learn to be as one, just like God and Jesus. *Charles Royden*

### **Meditation**

After the First World War it became a tradition for community singing to take place at the Football Cup Final at Wembley. King George V suggested that a hymn be included, and "Abide with me" was chosen. At the start of the Cup Final yesterday the tradition was continued in the new stadium with the hymn being sung by Sarah Brightman and Leslie Garrett.

The words were written by Henry Lyte in the fishing village of Brixham in Devon, where he had been the Vicar since the age of 30. His words are particularly touching because he wrote them whilst dying of tuberculosis. On the 4th September 1847 he said goodbye to the congregation of his church. He had been given early retirement because of his chronic health. In his last sermon he preached about the time when two disciples were walking along a road towards a village called Emmaus. Jesus had been killed a few days before, but now he joins them and walks beside them. He is risen from the dead. At last they recognise him and say to him: "Stay with us. It is nearly evening." Henry Lyte took this theme and wrote his hymn as he walked by the sea. He heard the ebb and flow of the tide and, for the last time there, he watched the sun set. The following day he was to go abroad on the advice of his doctor, who had told him that in a drier climate he might live a little longer. And so he wrote "Abide with me" (meaning "stay with me"), "it is fast becoming evening." As he wrote his words, Henry Lyte also thought of his own life coming to a swift end. No earthly helpers or comforts could make much difference to him. 2 months later, on his way to sunny Italy, he died in Nice, France. His last words were "Peace, joy," as he pointed his hand towards the sky. We can use our imagination and place ourselves on the seashore as the sun is setting. We listen to the words of his hymn as the prayer of this sick man who knew he was at the "evening" of his life, about to die from tuberculosis - but at peace with himself and God.

Abide with me, fast falls the eventide;  
the darkness deepens, Lord, with me abide.  
When other helpers fail, and comforts flee,  
help of the helpless, O abide with me.

Swift to its close ebbs out life's little day;  
earth's joys grow dim, its glories pass away;  
change and decay in all around I see;  
O thou who changest not, abide with me.

I need thy presence every passing hour;  
what but thy grace can foil the tempter's power?  
Who like thyself my guide and stay can be?  
Through cloud and sunshine, O abide with me.

**Jenga** the block building game. If you have this game, of any size, the youth team would like to borrow it for the Putnoe Heights celebration weekend next month. We are organising a Children's Special on the afternoon of Saturday 16th June and hope to have a Jenga knock out competition. Thanks Liz

**St Albans Woodland Burial Trust.** The Consecration of the Woodland will take place on 7 June at approximately 2.00pm. Prior to the consecration of the woodland, the Bishop of Bedford will also consecrate the extension to the Garden of Remembrance at St Mark's at 1.00pm

**Footprints Walking Group.** Walking Weekend 21,22,23 September 2007. Details of the annual away weekend are now available. The venue will be the Nightingale Hotel and Leisure Club situated in a quiet village on the outskirts of Swindon which boasts a swimming pool, fitness suite and health spa. For walkers the Cotswolds and the Ridgeway Path are close by. Non walkers have easy access to shopping and the Railway Museum in Swindon. More details from Sue Allen (407264). Next walk is on Sunday 3rd June. Meet in Stagsden (parking around the church) at 2.30pm for a 4 mile circular walk. Contact Sue as above.

**NCH** Home collecting boxes. Please give Margaret Standley your box so that the contents can be counted and banked. Throughout the year you have collected £256.81 already. Last year £308.25 was raised in this way by May and I will eventually give you the final total for this year. The support you give helps NCH to work locally with vulnerable children. Putting a little aside now and again means NCH can count on almost £600,000 from these boxes nationally. This allows help and care to be planned for the children that need support. Thank you. .

**Storybox plus** now meets at Putnoe on a Monday afternoon between 3.30 and 5.00. If any children aged between 4 and 9 years old within the Partnership would like to join us as we "Follow the Year" please contact Liz

**Christian books for the under fives** - If anyone has any books which would be suitable for using at Storybox on a Thursday at St Mark's, Emma and her team would be very pleased to have them. Books may be left at the Church Office at any time.

**Help Required.** Storybox at St Mark's needs help with refreshments for about an hour over lunchtime. If anyone feels they could lend a hand once every six weeks, Emma would love to hear from you. If you leave your telephone number at the office Emma will get back to you or ring Emma 211070. Thank you.

**Park Road is celebrating its 120 years** of service to the Black Tom area on the weekend of 19/20th May. On the Saturday evening the Risely Singers will give a performance, followed by a quiz and refreshments. Programmes/tickets are £2.50 and can be ordered from Jenny Clifford on 404644 and paid for on the night. On the Sunday morning Rev Dr Janet Wootton, the Well known preacher, will conduct the 11am service and in the evening the Songs of Praise at 6.30 will be all Charles Wesley hymns. Do try and support us in our celebration. Thanks Jenny Clifford

**Half Term Holiday** Due to the half term holiday there will be no Junior Church or YPF at Putnoe on Sunday 27th May.

**A big 'Thank You'** to all the friends at Putnoe Heights Church for the love, good wishes, song, flowers, thirty three cards and the medallion from Story Box to celebrate my 95th birthday last Sunday. Jennie Cooper

**Bedford Care** The AGM will take place at St Mark's Church at 8.00pm on Thursday 24 May. Speaker Mr Gordon Beeden FRCS

**Sunday Chairs**—The Leadership team is always very grateful for any help with moving and stacking the chairs after Sunday Service but would be very pleased to have a few more pairs of hands to make this task easier.

**Volunteers urgently required** for the annual House-to-House collection for Arthritis Research Campaign which takes place from the 3—11 June. The Bedford Branch is very short of helpers this year. Can you help please in Brickhill, Putnoe, Goldington etc. if you can, please phone 01234 344617. Thank you Marian Goddard.

**Annual Report 2007.** Remember copies of the Annual reports for our churches can be read online on [www.thisischurch.com](http://www.thisischurch.com)

**TNT** due to the Whitsun holiday the next TNT will now not be until Sunday 10th June. New programme to be announced soon. Liz

**The youth club at St Mark's** is operated by our community police team voluntarily in their own spare time and it is brilliant. They have received a Mayor's Community Award, we do not yet know whether this will be a certificate of recognition, a community award or overall borough winner. The level of award will be announced by the Mayor at an awards ceremony on Thursday 21 June.

**Mother Teresa Support Group** – Would you like to spend a pleasant afternoon in good company, knitting and chatting with a cup of tea and biscuits to sustain you? If so, you would be very welcome to join us at St Mark's on alternate Tuesdays. Our next meeting is at 2.30pm on Tuesday 15 May. Wool, needles and patterns provided.

**Bunyan Meeting - Dealing with Depression**

A workshop on the Christian response to depression. Led by Dr John Lockley author of A practical workbook for the depressed Christian What is depression? Why should Christians get depressed when they have an all-powerful God on their side? Many more questions answered. Saturday 26 May 10:00am – 4:00pm Please bring packed lunch. Hot drinks available throughout the day. Further information from Rachel in Church Office 01234 213722

**Quaker Meeting House**, 5 Lansdowne Road, Bedford. A simple buffet lunch at 12.30 (please RSVP on 01234 261066; or e-mail johngrace@freenet.co.uk) to help with catering Programme: Saturday 30 June 2007 12.15 Welcome, 12.30 Buffet, 13.30 Talk and open discussion, 15.00 Close with tea and cake Our speaker is Mark Kibblewhite, a Quaker and scientist, and Head of Natural Resources Department, Cranfield University. His subject is "Responding to Climate change: ethical and spiritual dimensions". We extend a very warm welcome to anyone who would like to join us

**50th Anniversary Celebration Pens!** Why not buy a special commemorative pen to mark the 50th Anniversary of Putnoe Heights Church? The pens are black and come in a smart box. Available now at Putnoe, price £3 or phone Jenny Emsley 360397.

**Kempston Musical Society** present a concert of light music at Putnoe Heights Church on Saturday 16th June at 7.30pm. This concert is part of the 50th anniversary celebration weekend for the church. Please come and bring a friend. Programme £5. For further details contact Alan Bayliss on Bedford 268101.

**New names for St Mark's.** New names have been agreed for the halls and rooms at St Mark's, as proposed by the Centre Management Meeting (Community Forum). The two new rooms in the centre will be called the Biffa Room (up) and the Wren Room (down). The Church will be called the church hall. The large hall, small hall and upstairs room will remain the same. The names should hopefully assist visitors when accompanied by new signage.

**St Mark' Wednesday Holy Communion.** Owing to a funeral, the Wednesday service this week will take place in the Biffa Room . Mary Stubbs will kindly assist.

**Friendship Sunday.** As regular attendees at All Age Worship over the last few years will have noticed, we have been experimenting with types of service which try and explain God and his love for us for the benefit of our younger members. The Teddy service is now firmly fixed in the diary and the Pet Service was very much enjoyed too. On the first Sunday in June (3<sup>rd</sup>) we will be exploring the theme of Friendship. We will be thanking God for the friendships we have and will enjoy, for the precious gift of friendship and talking about the concept of God as a loving, caring friend. Many of us find that we see things in new ways because of the process of making them understandable for the children; so we hope that this will be a special service to be enjoyed by everyone, whatever their age. Why not celebrate by contacting an old friend or bringing a friend along to church with you? Joan

**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.



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

**Wedding**



We publish the banns and pray for the marriage of Andrew Keith Bennett and Catherine Jane Calver. This is the second time of asking.

**Rest in Peace**



**The funeral of Brenda May Jones** will take place at St Mark's Chapel at 10.15am on Wednesday 23 May