



Methodist  
Church

# Partnership News

26 April 2009

3rd Sunday of Easter



Church of  
England

## Partnership Church Services Today

### 8.30am Holy Communion every Sunday

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

### 9.30am St. Mark's – Morning Worship

Preacher - Mr. Paul Fricker  
Leadership - Mrs. Delia Shepherd  
Intercessions - Mrs. Mary Stubbs

### 11.00am Putnoe Heights – Morning Worship

*In our service we will welcome uniformed organisations and also the Dean family for the Thanksgiving service for Josiah William Dean.*

Preacher - Mr. Paul Fricker  
Leadership - Mr. Lawrence Wyatt  
Intercessions - Mrs. Sue Allen

## Sunday 3 May

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

Preacher – Mr Chris Izzard  
Leadership - Mrs Avril Williams  
Intercessions – Mr John Stubbs

### 11.00am Putnoe Heights – Family Worship

Preacher – Mr Chris Izzard  
Leadership - Mrs Linda Hoar  
Intercessions - Ministers

**Readings** Acts 4: 5-12, 1 John 3: 16-24  
John 10: 11-18

## Thank You

The flowers at St Mark's this week have been given by Mike and Penny Puttock on the occasion of their wedding anniversary.

The flowers at Putnoe Heights Church this week have been given by Harry and Mary Stokes in loving memory of Harry's dear Mum, brothers Alan and Pete, and step-dad Sidney.

## A Prayer for Sunday

Let me love you, O God,  
with all my heart, mind and strength.  
Loving you, may I ever more desire you.  
Desiring you, may I ever more  
be uneasy without you.  
Being ever more at ease in your presence,  
may I become ever more like you,  
after the perfect image  
of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

*Susanna Wesley, 1669-1742*

## Contact Details

### The Reverend Dr. Sam Cappleman

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

### The Reverend Charles Royden

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 Monday to Thursday 9am - 5pm, Friday 9am - 1pm  
Tel/fax & Answering Service 365630 putnoe@thisischurch.com  
Centre Manager Mr Barry Snelson 365630 & 344417  
Leadership Team Mrs. Wendy Nash 357119  
Treasurer Mr Ian Morse 216428 treasurerph@thisischurch.com  
Gift Aid Administrator - Mr John Hitt 404186  
Youth & children's worker - Mrs Spavins 302349  
youth@thisischurch.com

### St. Mark's Church Centre (Open 9am - 5.00pm)

Tel/fax & Answering Service 342613 office@thisischurch.com  
Centre Manager Miss Wendy Rider 342613  
Leadership Team - Mr Mike Cooper 306751  
Treasurer - Mr Ian Farthing 210892 treasurer@thisischurch.com  
Gift Aid Administrator 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 Pre-school** Mon-Fri St Mark's
- 9.30-3.15pm Top Marks** Mon-Fri St Mark's  
Headteacher Mrs. Helen Harpin ☎312634  
(See website for more details)
- 9.00am Clubhouse** at St. Mark's for those with Learning Disabilities. Karen Bywater ☎315460.
- 9.45am - Body Control Pilates** –Putnoe Heights  
Stephanie Smith ☎ 357787 or 07973174430
- 10.00am Bakers Barn Art Group.** St Mark's Mr Kellie ☎ 721063
- 10.30am U3A Play reading** St Mark's J Birks ☎219607
- 12.00pm Story box Putnoe Heights** We welcome the under 5's and their carers to join them between 12noon and 1pm for a sandwich lunch followed by a Bible based story and singing. ☎Liz 302349
- 1.30pm U3A History Group** St Mark's ☎ David Fowler 824474
- 2pm U3A Drama** St Mark's 1st & 2nd week. Mr Ovenden ☎ 825059
- 4.00pm Storybox Plus** Putnoe Heights for 4-9 year Old. Meet at 3.30 for refreshments & games. Then till 5pm 'follow the year' through stories, drama, singing & craft activities. We then make a short presentation in church on first Sunday in each month. ☎Liz Spavins 302349
- 4.15pm Rosemary Conley Diet & Fitness.** Putnoe Heights. Margo Needham 843747 or 07881730747
- 4.15pm Kumon Maths** Putnoe Heights. Mrs Raksha Mistry ☎01908 392698
- 6.00pm Brownies** St Mark's. Mrs C Mathew ☎826190
- 6.15 pm Brownies** Putnoe. Sharon Tanner ☎ 07720713738.
- 6.15 Pilates** at Putnoe Heights Jane Butcher 300859
- 7.30pm Sugarcraft Guild** St Mark's 1st week Pat Nicholson ☎353518
- 7.30pm Cancer Care Society.** St Mark's. 1st Week. Mr J Dewhurst ☎01908 377020
- 7.15pm Guides.** St Mark's. Mrs Gill Lake ☎218091
- 7.15pm Yoga.** Putnoe Heights Denise Green ☎244970
- 7.30pm Whist Drive.** St Mark's 3rd & 5th week . Next meeting 18 May Judith Stanton. ☎823313
- 7.30pm House group** 30 The Ridgeway. The home of Eddy & Margaret Peck ☎267567.
- 8.00pm 'Get Fit, Stay Fit'** Putnoe Heights. Mrs Diane Field ☎404976

## Tuesday

- 9.30 12.30 Jo Jingles.** St. Mark's. Music & movement for pre-school children. Renu Elston ☎01908 587299
- 9.30am Candlewicking** (Needlework). Putnoe Heights. Judi Staughton ☎341821
- 9.30am -12.30 & 4-9pm Slimming World** St. Mark's. Helen Folbigg ☎351223
- 10am -Bedford Arts Society** starting at St Mark's Mrs Brown☎771676
- 10am Autism Beds Adult Support Group.** St Mark's. Sally Cripsley ☎350704
- 11.15am U3A Keep Fit** Sally Banks ☎ 870357
- 1.30pm Toddlers Playtime.** Putnoe Heights Majella Atkinson ☎325293.
- 1.30pm U3A Cinema Group.** St Mark's 4th Week in

month . Mrs Beaumont ☎261461

- 2.00pm U3A Book Group.** St Mark's 3rd Week Mrs Forrest ☎344043
- 2.00pm Library Walk W.I.** Putnoe Heights, meets monthly. Morag Tomkins ☎356895
- 2pm U3A Photography** (Group 3) St Mark's 1st Week. Janet King ☎313946
- 2.15pm Putnoe Heights Women's Fellowship.** Next meeting 28 April Sue Allen 2Flower Arranging" Betty Wyatt ☎350188.
- 2.30pm Mother Teresa Support Group.** St Mark's Fortnightly . Wool and knitting needles provided. Mrs Maureen Watling ☎262225
- 2.15pm Tuesday Afternoon Housegroup.** St Mark's Fortnightly. Mary Stubbs ☎406784.
- 3.45pm Stars School of Dance.** Putnoe Heights. Esther Sancto ☎295862 or 07917582468.
- 6.30pm Creative Card making. Putnoe Heights Church. Carol Houghton 346718
- 6.30pm Yoga** Putnoe Heights Veronica Lafferty ☎781466 or 07788750360
- 7pm Keep Fit.** St. Mark's Jan Gregory ☎328455
- 7pm MT Karate** [all ages] Putnoe Heights. Karen King ☎ 07941 264885
- 7.30pm Tabernacle of Truth Church** Putnoe Heights Bible study & prayers. Revd. Tarr ☎360188 or 07866775515
- 7.30pm Chartered Management Institute** St Marks 3rd week. Mrs Dimmock ☎01525 862374
- 7.30pm Putnoe Heights Ladies Tuesday Club** - Meets fortnightly. Meeting 5 May Canine Partners. Sheila Phillips. Details from Audrey Wilkins☎365068 or Margaret Gentle ☎309043

## Wednesday

- 9.30am** Body Control Pilates. Putnoe Heights. Stephanie Smith ☎357787 or 07973174430.
- 9.00am Clubhouse** at St Mark's for those with Learning Disabilities. Karen Bywater ☎315460.
- 10.00am Holy Communion.** St. Mark's Chapel. A half hour service followed by coffee. All welcome.
- 10am Sewing & Chat.** Putnoe Heights Valerie Russell ☎01462 815966
- 12.30pm Luncheon Club.** Putnoe Heights fortnightly. Next - 6 May 2009 Putnoe Heights Office ☎365630
- 1.00-3pm Police Surgery** at Putnoe Heights .
- 1.15pm Bridge Club for the Retired.** St. Mark's. Mr Barnes ☎261811
- 1.45 Scots Society Whist** Putnoe monthly .All welcome Nancy Barr 268147
- 2-5pm Police Surgery.** St Mark's Foyer. ☎349179
- 2pm U3A Craft St Mark's** 1st & 3rd week. Pat Holland ☎ 262823
- 2.15pm - Fifty plus Keep Fit.** Putnoe Heights Mrs Webster ☎856966
- 4.15pm Kumon Maths.** Putnoe Heights Mrs Raksha Mistry ☎01908 392698
- 6.00 pm Brownies.** St Mark's. Mrs Carol Warden ☎219731
- 6.15pm Yoga and Relaxation** Putnoe Heights Racheall Monton ☎01234 297138
- 6-8pm Karate.** St Mark's Karen ☎079412 64885
- 7.00pm Bunyan Bridge.** St. Mark's Brian Sallows ☎407725

**7.00pm Archaeological & Local History Society** Putnoe Heights monthly. Vanessa Aykac 268098 or 07917385987

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

**7.00pm Line Dancing** Putnoe Heights Mike Del-Boyer ☎ 348378

**7.00pm U3A Sky at Night** 2nd Week. Mr Farish ☎ 824984

**8.00pm Badminton Club** Putnoe Heights All welcome. Ken Marriott ☎ 214867

**8.00pm Tudor Reeds Folk Dance Club** St Mark's, 1st, 3rd & 5th Wednesday in month. Next Meeting 29 April AGM Everyone welcome. Ring Graham ☎ 406359 or Alan 345312. or Rosemary 405594 for more details

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

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

### Thursday

**9.30am Thursday Prayer Group.** Putnoe Heights in the quiet room. Sylvia Cohen ☎ 343424

*Request for prayer can be written in the prayer diary on the information table. (No meeting on 9th April)*

**9.45am Yoga** Putnoe Heights Denise Green ☎ 244970

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

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

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

**1.30pm Toddler Playtime.** Putnoe Majella Atkinson ☎ 325293.

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

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

**4 - 7.00pm Police Surgery.** St Mark's Foyer. ☎ 349179

**6.15 pm Weightwatchers.** St. Mark's. Mrs Margaret Ralph ☎ 01767 224978.

**6.15pm Brownies.** Putnoe Heights Caroline Morgan ☎ 07786508351

**7.00pm Club 2000** Putnoe Heights Nina Ovenden ☎ 825059

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

**7.15pm Putnoe Art Group** Bob Wardale ☎ 406094

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

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

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

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

### Friday

**9.30-12.30pm U3A Photography** (Group 1) St Marks 4th week in month Val Scrivener ☎ 346397

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

**10am - 12 U3A Beginners French** St Mark's Joyce Fields ☎ 353086

**12.15pm U3A Photography** (Group 2). St Mark's 4th week in month. Sue Butler ☎ 354183

**5pm Stars School of Dance** Putnoe Heights Contact Esther Sancto ☎ 295862 or ☎ 07917 582468

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

**6.15pm Yoga and Relaxation** Putnoe Heights. Racheall Monton 297138 or 07910835994

**6.30pm Line Dancing.** St Mark's Christine Rushton ☎ 782360

**7pm Bedford Art Society** monthly Putnoe Heights. Next meeting 1st May Mary Rich ☎ 272470

**7.45 - 10.45pm Bedford Astrology Club.** St. Mark's. Carol Brown ☎ 01438 233385

### Saturday

**9.45am Bedford Stamp Auction** at Putnoe Heights Next Auction 30th May. Contact Stuart or Anne 01327 876438

**10.00am Theatretrain** St Mark's. Dancing acting, singing. Kate Howard ☎ 01234 782414

**Young Embroiders** bi monthly Putnoe Heights Terry Fletcher Tel 357198

**2.15pm Society of Recorder Players** at Putnoe Heights. G Parry 01462 674792

**7.00pm Duplicate Bridge.** St Mark's Mrs Pillinger ☎ 212066

### Sunday

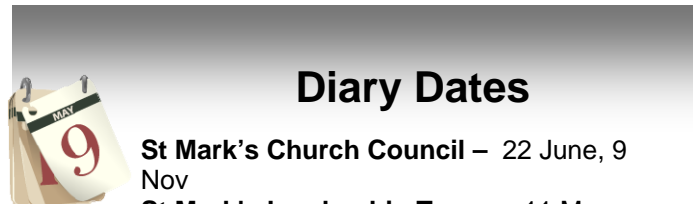
**9.30 - 10.30 Church and Sunday School** at St Mark's with crèche for under 3's

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

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

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

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



## Diary Dates

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

St Mark's Leadership Team – 11 May

2009

**Putnoe Heights Leadership Team** – 8 June at Linda's, 12 Oct, 8 Feb 2010

**Putnoe Heights Management Meeting** 20 July

**St Mark's Church Forum Meeting** - 12 May, 15 July, 8 Sept, 11 Nov, 12 Jan 2010

**Putnoe Church Council** - 15 Jun, 5 Oct

**Pastoral Group Meeting** - 5th May 4.30pm

**Annual Congregational Meetings** Today 26 April

**Churchyard Committee** - 29th April 3.30pm

**Putnoe Heights Mission Group**

**Partnership Council** -

**Brickhill Parish Council Meetings** -

**Deanery Meeting** 18 Jun, 17 Sep, 19 Nov,

**Circuit/Deanery Meeting**

**Woodland Burial Trustees** –

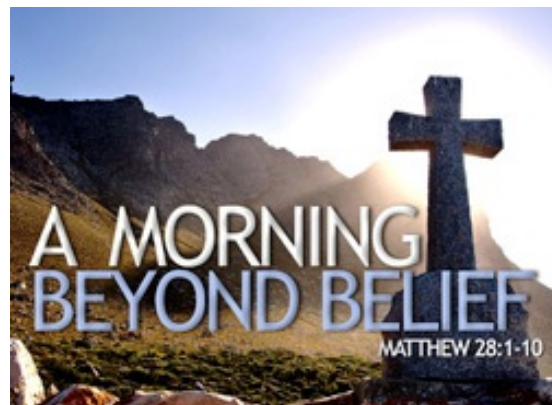
**Putnoe Heights Children & Youth** – 11 May at 1.15pm

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

## Easter 3

**Opening Verse** 1 John 3:1 How great is the love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God

**Collect Prayer for the Day** — *Before we read we pray*  
Risen Christ, you filled your disciples with boldness and fresh hope: strengthen us also to proclaim your risen life and fill us with your peace, to the glory of God the Father. Amen. *Common Worship Shorter Collect*



**First Bible Reading** Acts 3:12-19

When Peter saw this, he said to them: "Men of Israel, why does this surprise you? Why do you stare at us as if by our own power or godliness we had made this man walk? The God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, the God of our fathers, has glorified his servant Jesus. You handed him over to be killed, and you disowned him before Pilate, though he had decided to let him go. You disowned the Holy and Righteous One and asked that a murderer be released to you. You killed the author of life, but God raised him from the dead. We are witnesses of this. By faith in the name of Jesus, this man whom you see and know was made strong. It is Jesus' name and the faith that comes through him that has given this complete healing to him, as you can all see. "Now, brothers, I know that you acted in ignorance, as did your leaders. But this is how God fulfilled what he had foretold through all the prophets, saying that his Christ would suffer. Repent, then, and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out, that times of refreshing may come from the Lord. "(Reader: This is the word of the Lord – **Thanks be to God**)

**Second Reading** 1 John 3:1-7

How great is the love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are! The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him. Dear friends, now we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known. But we know that when he appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is. Everyone who has this hope in him purifies himself, just as he is pure. Everyone who sins breaks the law; in fact, sin is lawlessness. But you know that he appeared so that he might take away our sins. And in him is no sin. No one who lives in him keeps on sinning. No one who continues to sin has either seen him or known him. Dear children, do not let anyone lead you astray. He who does what is right is righteous, just as he is righteous. – **Thanks be to God**)

**Gospel Reading** Luke 24:36b-48 (*When announced* **All: Glory to Christ our Saviour**)

While they were still talking about this, Jesus himself stood among them and said to them, "Peace be with you." They were startled and frightened, thinking they saw a ghost.

He said to them, "Why are you troubled, and why do doubts rise in your minds? Look at my hands and my feet. It is I myself! Touch me and see; a ghost does not have flesh and bones, as you see I have." When he had said this, he showed them his hands and feet. And while they still did not believe it because of joy and amazement, he asked them, "Do you have anything here to eat?" They gave him a piece of broiled fish, and he took it and ate it in their presence.

He said to them, "This is what I told you while I was still with you: Everything must be fulfilled that is written about me in the Law of Moses, the Prophets and the Psalms." Then he opened their minds so they could understand the Scriptures. He told them, "This is what is written: The Christ will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day, and repentance and forgiveness of sins will be preached in his name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things. I am going to send you what my Father has promised; but stay in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high." (Reader: This is the Gospel of Christ– **All: Praise to Christ our Lord** )

**Post Communion Prayer**

Living God, your Son made himself known to his disciples in the breaking of bread: open the eyes of our faith, that we may see him in all his redeeming work; who is alive and reigns, now and for ever. Amen

## Commentary

I often speak with people who tell me that the reason why they do not come to church is because they would not be able to agree with everything which the churches expects from them. Now obviously there are some people who are just looking for any excuse not to have to get out of bed in the morning. Others are avoiding the challenges which the church makes and are looking for an easy way out. However there are many other people who are genuine and who struggle with what they think the church expects from them at an intellectual level. For many people they cannot pretend that they ascent to a whole load of creed and theology which they think the church expects from them.

This raises for us a great many questions, but perhaps the first question is this - do we expect that those who gather together and call themselves a church all believe the same things about theology, ethics, society and so on? Would we want a church in which everybody had to sign up on a dotted line to make sure that they were sound and orthodox? It reminds me of the film in which the men in an American community called Stepford find a way of making ideal wives who do everything the men want and don't think for themselves. They end up with perfect robot partners. Every wife looks perfect, cooking and cleaning dutifully for their husbands. It might sound great at first, but of course it isn't, nobody would really want to be married to a robotic Stepford Wife.

So we must ask ourselves, is the church about conformity and moving everybody along so that they inhabit the same space in respect of belief and lifestyle? Are we looking for Stepford Christians? It might be desirable for some insecure pastors of churches who want congregations which are clones of themselves, but actually it brainwashing, a form of intellectual imprisonment. I would much rather have people in church who felt able to be honest about their doubts and fears. True conviction is not about expressing the same thing in a louder voice, we must be able to tackle the complex questions of faith and work out what salvation means for us in the cauldron of this life.

Frederick Buechner wrote (*Beyond Words*)

*'If you don't have doubts, you are either kidding yourself or are asleep.'*

So it should come as an encouragement to us to learn that the first disciples struggled to come to terms even with the fact that Jesus had risen from the dead. Jesus met with the disciples and clearly even after touching him, some of them still found belief difficult. Now we do not have the enormous privilege of touching Jesus, so clearly there are times when our faith is going to be put to the test. Moreover even the most ardent believers disagree profoundly about what everything from ethics and lifestyle choices, to basic Biblical belief. As an example there are many Christians around the world who believe that Jonah really did live inside a fish, other Christians read such stories as an illustrated parable or story with a meaning. For some Christians, having room to manoeuvre in their beliefs is unsettling and they prefer to be told exactly what they should believe and not have to think about it too deeply. However for others it is reassuring to know that nobody has all the answers and it is OK to be a part of a church and work through our questions without being expected to conform to the beliefs of others. The Apostle Paul said that now we are groping around in the dark, we do not see things clearly, but one day we will see Jesus face to face. (1 Cor 13). Until that time we have to be prepared to admit our limited understandings and be very open to listen and learn from each other. *Charles Royden*

## Hymns (*Please distribute Mission Praise and Morning Worship*)

1. Jesus Prince and saviour 377 (Tune St Gertrude)
2. All heaven declares 14
3. Lord thy church (On Partnership News, Tune: Abbots Leigh)
4. God is our strength and refuge 188
5. Christ is surely coming 75

## Prayers for Sunday and week ahead

Be light to my eyes, O Lord, and music to my ears. Be to me sweetness of taste and contentment of heart. Be sunshine to me in the day, food at my table and repose in the night. I give to you, O Lord, my body and my soul, all that I have and all that I am; my fame, my friends, my liberty and my life. Dispose of me according to your gracious will and the glory of your holy name; through Christ our Lord. Amen. *John Cosin, 1594-1672*

Risen Lord Jesus, who came to Your friends when all their hope was gone: come to us in the dark times. Come to those who despair, that they may feel your Easter presence in their hearts. Amen

Pray for me and I shall pray for you and all your friends that we may merrily meet in heaven. Amen  
(*Thomas Moore*)

## New Bishop a Step Closer

In a legal and liturgical ceremony that has been part of church practice since the third century, the Rt Revd Alan Smith received the care, government and administration of the bishopric of St Albans on 31st March.

The Confirmation of Election, as it is known follows the Election of the Bishop by the College of Canons of the Cathedral which took place on 13th February. These two ceremonies historically reflect the acceptance of an Episcopal appointment by the diocese and the wider church.

Although an ancient ceremony, the wording used in the confirmation has been gradually modernised. The service ends with the Archbishop of Canterbury giving the new Bishop his charge for the Diocese and in this respect the ceremony is entirely contemporary.

In his address the Archbishop referred to pastoral ministry as being an “eye opening matter. It is a matter not only of holding up to people a vision of where they are going but also a vision of who they are. He connected the role of a bishop to seeing and speaking the truth about God and those who the bishop serves. He concluded: “Keep your eyes open. Look to God who has called you. Look to Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of your faith. Look so that you may see all things as they are, and all people as they are, seeing them with a justice, a generosity and the imagination with which God sees them.”

Bishop Alan's inauguration will take place on 19th September 2009.



The Archbishop of Canterbury and the new Bishop of St Albans, flanked by the Bishops of Bedford (l) and Hertford (r)

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## Methodist Church launches Business Sunday to connect with business life

As the recession continues to dig in its heels, the Methodist Church is pioneering ways to bridge the gap between work and place of worship. May 3 will see the first Business Sunday, a day when leaders of Methodist services will be encouraged to connect their sermons with the whole world of work.

Business Sunday was an idea instigated by Vice-President of the Methodist Conference, David Walton, following an ethical business consultation at the Martin Luther King Centre in Manchester in October. The date May 3 was chosen because of its proximity to Labour Day and Rogation Sunday; two festivals which remember the joys and trials of working life. David, who is a partner of a solicitors' firm in Manchester, said: “In all the discussions I have been having with people all over the country, there has been a significant concern that we are not spending enough time making the link between our faith and our working lives. We often include doctors and teachers in our prayers, but we don't pray for the entrepreneurs, estate agents, accountants or people working in industry and commerce generally.

“Business Sunday is part of an initiative to support and encourage those people. The emphasis is not on creating yet another special Sunday in the calendar every year, but on having worship and study material available to help leaders support and value those in their congregations who are often facing tough decisions and ethical dilemmas in their working lives.”

There are 150 Methodist workplace chaplains working with people in industry and commerce, from Bluewater Shopping Centre through to Asda. Rev Rob Jones, Chaplaincies Coordinator, said: “We pray for teachers and health workers, but when do we pray for people working on the shop floor of a car manufacturer? We don't, on the whole, we don't see the faith link, but in actual fact these people carry their faith into the work place in a vigorous and often a very creative way and we want to support them in what they do.”

Resources, including service plans, will be available from today on the Methodist Church website. A Facebook-styled website aimed at fostering a network of support for like-minded people is in development. The idea follows on from the work of former Vice President John Bell who, as a former director of Philips, encouraged churches to engage actively with business life. David will be at a meeting of 70 Methodist local lay preachers and worship leaders in Bolton on May 3 for the launch of Business Sunday.

**House Group April 2009** Wendy Waters will be holding a house group at 13 Farnham Way, Putnoe at 7.45 pm on Mondays 27th, April and 11th and 18th May. We will use a 'York Course' entitled "Faith, Hope and Love". The course comprises of a CD which provides thought provoking input from well-known Christians such as Bishop Tom Wright and Anne Atkins, and a booklet which forms the basis of informal exploration and discussion. There is space for a few more people, so if you are interested in being part of the group or for more details please contact Wendy Waters on 401834.

**Footprints** Sunday 3rd May at 2.30pm. A pleasant, easy walk of approx. 3.5 miles, with a few stiles. Meet outside Melchbourne Church. Parking in the road leading up to the church. Further details from Margaret and Alan. Tel. 3272191.

**Action for Children** Sunday afternoon 26th April. Join us for tea and cakes from 2-4pm in the Wren Room. This will include news and information about Action for Children, as well as the opening of collection boxes for their worthy charitable work with children in need. All Welcome. Come to meet your friends.

**Art Encounters** - Thursday 7th May. ("Art tours in London with a spiritual perspective") Art Encounters was started by Bishop Christopher and Joan Crossley in 2008 and they have offered to conduct a visit to the National Gallery for members of the Partnership. There are still a few places left and if you are interested in joining us, please ring John or Sally Gunning. (305925)

**Woodland Friends** — Copies of the latest Friends Newsletter for the St Albans Woodland Burial Trust are now available from the churches, or can be downloaded from [www.woodlandburialtrust.com](http://www.woodlandburialtrust.com)

**Easter Offering Dedication Service** at Priory Methodist Church on Tuesday 12 May at 2.30pm. The theme for this years service is "The Way" and will be given by Sylvia Thomas from Ampthill, who is the current Network President. Members from the various Circuit churches will be taking part. All are welcome. Margaret Standley

**Need help with your ironing?** For a quick and reliable service call Julie on 07780805590 for more details. Pick up and delivery service available.

**Christian Aid Week 10th-16th May** Please contact the office at St. Mark's if you are able to help. Thank you. Wendy.

**Brickhill Annual Parish Meeting** 7th May, 7.30pm at St. Mark's. Everyone welcome to attend. Reports from the Parish Council, Bedford Borough



## **Please help Doreen and Joan as they 'Hike for the Homeless'**

Doreen Denny from Putnoe Heights Church and Joan Eatwell from St Mark's are representing our churches on the sponsored walk for the King's Arms Project on 9 May. If anyone from either Church would be prepared to sponsor them we would be very grateful. They are hoping to complete the 20 miles but that might depend on what the weather is like on the day!! So sponsor them for turning up and see how far they get Doreen's telephone number is 405840 and Joan's is 771156. There are sponsor forms in each church office.

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Councillors, local policing team and community groups. A presentation about footpaths, the "Green Wheel" and the potential for more play facilities in our local open spaces.

**Car For Sale** - Mitsubishi Lancer GLXI 1994 Auto Offers to Jennie Cooper 404950

**Thank you** to everybody who supported the Kempston Musical Society evening at St Mark's. Funds raised from the evening will be put towards our organ fund.

**The Annual Bedford Ecumenical Forum** will be held on 14 may at the Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Flitwick. Please tell the ministers if you would like to come along.

### **Annual Congregational Meetings**

Please note that the Annual Congregational Meetings for St Mark's and Putnoe Heights Churches will take place today. The meetings will take place after the Sunday morning services. Nominations forms for Church Council are available from the church offices and we encourage nominations

## Annual Congregational Meetings 2009

To take place at St. Mark's & Putnoe Heights Church after morning worship

**Opening Prayers** The Reverend Charles Royden

### Preliminary

Appointment of minute secretary to the Annual Congregational Meeting.

### Record of number of persons present

(Please note that no record is required of names of those present or apologies from the congregation for absence)

### Giving Thanks

Expressions of thanks to any leaving office

### Elections to Office

Election of Church Leadership Team  
Election of Deanery Synod representative  
Election of Church Council representatives

### Presentations

1. Presentation of Terrier and Inventory
2. Presentation of current church policy documents
3. Presentation of August church accounts
4. Presentation of membership lists (Electoral roll etc.)

### Presentation of review

Church Leadership Team and presented in written document form

## A Hymn for Sunday

- 1 Lord, thy church on earth is seeking thy renewal from above; teach us all the art of speaking with the accent of thy love.  
We would heed thy great commission: go ye into every place—preach, baptise, fulfil my mission, serve with love and share my grace.
- 2 Freedom give to those in bondage, lift the burdens caused by sin. Give new hope, new strength and courage, grant release from fears within: light for darkness; joy for sorrow; love for hatred; peace for strife. These and countless blessings follow as the Spirit gives new life.
- 3 In the streets of every city where the bruised and lonely dwell, let us show the Saviour's pity, let us of his mercy tell.  
In all lands and with all races let us serve, and seek to bring all the world to render praises, Christ, to thee, Redeemer, King.

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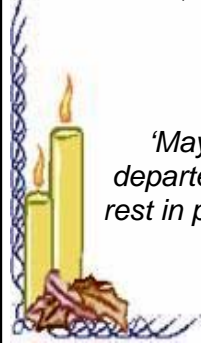
### St Albans Woodland Burial Ground Open Day

Come and visit the woodland on Saturday 27 June from 2.00pm—5.00pm

Refreshments served throughout

### 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.'*

### Forthcoming Funerals



**The funeral of Stella Brooks** will take place at Putnoe Heights Church on Tuesday 28 April at 1.00pm

**The funeral of Phyllis Marjorie Chibnell** will take place at Bedford Crematorium at 11.30am on Tuesday 28 April

**The funeral of Joyce Sheila Marsh** will take place at Bedford Crematorium at 3.15pm on Tuesday 28 April