



Methodist
Church

Partnership News

26 February 2006

Sunday Next before Lent

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



Church of
England

Church Services Today

8.30 Holy Communion both churches
9.30am St Mark's Church - Morning Worship
Preacher - Revd Charles Royden
Leadership Team - Mr Ian Farthing
Intercessions - Mrs Mary Stubbs
11.00am Putnoe Heights - Morning Worship
Preacher - Revd Charles Royden
Leadership Team - Mr Alan Bayliss
Intercessions - Mrs Sylvia Cohen

5 March 2006

8.30 Service of Holy Communion both churches
9.30am St Mark's Church - Family Worship
Preacher - Revd Neil Bramble-Chapman
Leadership - Mrs Avril Williams
Intercessions - Mr Ian Farthing
11.00am Putnoe Heights - Family Worship
Preacher - Revd Neil Bramble-Chapman
Leadership Team - Mrs Wendy Nash
Intercessions - Mrs Sue Allen

Reading 1 : Genesis 9 : 8 - 7
Reading 2 : 1 Peter 3 : 18 - 22
Reading 3 : Mark 1 : 9 - 15

Thank You

The flowers at St. Marks this week are given by Joan Stafford in memory of her husband Jim.

The flowers at Putnoe Heights Church this week have been given by Diana Johnson in memory of her mother, Jean Brown.

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

Flood my soul, O God, with your presence.
Penetrate my whole being with your Spirit.
Shine through me with your light.
May others look into my life and see only their Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.
Amen. Methodist Worship

Contact Details

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

The Reverend Neil Bramble-Chapman BA, CTM
(Day off Friday)
12 Hartop Close, Putnoe. MK41 8HE
326643 Mobile -07917 356062 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

Partnership Youth and Children's Worker
Mrs Liz Spavins 302349 youth@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 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 - 12 noon Monday & Friday
9am - 5pm Tuesday/Wednesday & Thursday
Tel/fax & Answering Service 365630 putnoe@thisischurch.com
Centre Manager Mr Barry Snelson 365630
Leadership Team - Mrs Sue Allen 407264
Treasurer Mrs Kathryn Morse 216428
Treasurerph@Thisischurch.com
Gift Aid Administrator - Mr John Hitt 404186
Junior Church Co-ordinator - Mrs Liz Spavins 302349

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 Ian Farthing 210892
Treasurer - Mr John Day 295592 treasurer@Thisischurch.com
Gift Aid Administrator Mr Jim Williams 360605

Partnership News is also archived on our church website
www.ThisisChurch.com

Regular Weekly Activities - A Guide To Our Churches

Monday

- 9.30 - 12.00 pm Mon-Fri Putnoe Heights Pre-school** Mrs Janet Smith 326685
- 9.30 - 5.30 pm Mon-Fri St Mark's Pre-school** Mrs. Helen Harpin 312634
(See website for more details)
- 9.00 am Clubhouse** at St. Mark's for those with Learning Disabilities. Karen Bywater 315460.
- 12.00pm - 1.00pm Story box** Putnoe Heights church welcome the under 5's and their carers to join them between 12noon and 1pm for a sandwich lunch followed by a Bible story, singing and activities. Lots of fun, donations. Contact Liz on 01234 302349
- 4pm Story Box Plus** at St. Marks for 4 -11 year olds meet at 3.30. for refreshments & games, then till 5pm make props, sing & rehearse a short play to perform in church the 1st Sunday of each month. Lots of fun. Free. Contact Liz 302349
- 4.15pm - Rosemary Conley Diet & Fitness.** Putnoe Heights. Miriam Adcock 01908 565044
- 4.15 - 5.45pm Kumon Maths** at Putnoe Heights. Contact Ms Raksha Mistry 01908 392698
- 6.00pm Brownies** St Mark's. Mrs C Mathew 826190
- 6.15 pm Brownies** Putnoe. Penny Fulham 406045
- 7.30pm Sugarcraft Guild** meets first Monday every month at St. Mark's Mrs Pauline Parrott 768419
- 7.15 m Guides** -St. Mark's. Mrs Gill Lake 218091
- 7.15pm Yoga** at Putnoe Heights Church. Contact Karen Simpson 244970
- 7.30pm Creative Needles** at Putnoe Heights. Jacky Hayward 307648. New members welcome.
- 7.30pm Whist Drive** - At St Mark's each month the next 20 March Mrs. Judith Stanton. 823313
- 7.30pm Housegroup** 30 The Ridgeway. The home of Eddy & Margaret Peck 267567.
- 8.00pm 'Get Fit, Stay Fit'** at Putnoe Heights. Mrs Diane Field 404976

Tuesday

- 9.30am Candlewicking** (Needlework) at Putnoe Heights. Mrs Olive Shotbolt 267203
- 10.00am Keep Fit** at Putnoe Heights. Mrs Stileman 822230
- 1.30-3pm Toddlers Playtime** at Putnoe Heights. Geraldine Skeel 406828
- 9.30am -12.30 & 4 - 9pm Slimming World** at St. Mark's. Val Careless 345213.
- 2.00pm Library Walk W.I.** at Putnoe Heights meets monthly. Contact Morag Tompkins 356895
- 2 - 5pm Police Surgery.** St Mark's Foyer.
- 2.15pm Putnoe Heights Women's Fellowship** - Next meeting 28February NSPCC Betty Wyatt 350188.
- 2.15pm Putnoe Heights Men's Fellowship.** Next meeting 28February Slides of Norway Mr.G. Brown Lawrence Wyatt 350188.
- 2.30pm Mother Teresa Support Group.** Meets

- fortnightly at St. Mark's. Wool and knitting needles provided. Mrs Maureen Watling 262225
- 2.30pm Tuesday Afternoon Housegroup.** Meets fortnightly at St. Mark's. Mary Stubbs 406784.
- 3.45 - 5.30pm Stars School of Dance.** Esther Sancto 272517 or 07917 0582468.
- 6.30 - 7.30pm Yoga** at Putnoe Heights. Rachel Leontyne 783129
- 6.45pm Guides** at Putnoe Heights. Emma Holloway 293792
- 7.00 - 8.00 pm Keep Fit** at St. Mark's. Mrs Jan Gregory 214107.
- 7.00 - 10pm Card Makers Club** meets fortnightly at St Mark's. Carol Houghton 346718
- 7.30pm Tabernacle of Truth Church** at Putnoe Heights. Bible study & prayers. Revd.Tarr on 360188 or 07866775515
- 7.45 pm Putnoe Heights Ladies Tuesday Club** - Meets fortnightly.at 7.45pm Next meeting 7 March Slides of Canada . Madge Walsh 359088
- 8.30-9.30pm St. Mark's - Qi Gong** (Self help healing group) - Mr F Steele 355937

Wednesday

- 9.30am Childminding Support Group** at Putnoe Heights. Mrs S Longman 313949
- 9.30am - Body Control Pilates.** Stephanie Smith 357787.
- 9.00 a.m. Clubhouse** at St Mark's for those with Learning Disabilities. Contact Karen Bywater 315460.
- 10.00 am Holy Communion** at St. Mark's Chapel. A half hour service followed by coffee. All welcome.
- 10am Sewing & Chat** Putnoe Heights Contact Valerie Russell 01462 815966
- Luncheon Club** at Putnoe Heights fortnightly. Next meeting 8 March Putnoe 365630
- 1 - 3pm Police Surgery** at Putnoe Heights .
- 1.30 - 4.00pm. Bridge Club for the Retired** at St. Mark's. Mrs Truss Boyce 781133
- 2.15pm - Fifty plus Keep Fit.** Mrs Webster 856966
- 4.15pm - Kumon Maths** at Putnoe Heights Ms Raksha Mistry 01908 392698
- 6.00pm Self Defence at Putnoe** Mr James 07711 687449
- 6.00 pm Brownies** at St Mark's. Mrs Carol Warden 219731
- 7.00pm Bunyan Bridge** at St. Mark's. Brian Sallows 407725
- 7.00pm Archaeological & Local History Society** meets monthly at Putnoe Heights. Next meeting . Sylvia Woods 365095
- 7pm Putnoe Guild** meets monthly at Putnoe Heights. Janice Loxley 347073
- 7.45pm Kick Boxing** Junior classes at St Mark's. Contact Mr James 07711687449 or 07810234890
- 7.45pm Badminton Club** at Putnoe Heights - all welcome. Ken Marriott 214867

8.45-9.45pm St. Mark's - Qi Gong (Self help healing group) starting Mr F Steele 355937

Thursday

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

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

9.45am Yoga at Putnoe Heights. Karen Simpson 244970

1.00pm - 3.00pm Clinic at St. Mark's 267444

12pm Story box St Mark's Church welcome the under 5's and their carers to join them between 12 noon and 1pm for a sandwich lunch followed by a Bible story, singing and activities. Lots of fun, donations. Contact Liz Spavins on 1234 302349

1.30-3pm Toddler Playtime at Putnoe Heights. Geraldine Skeel 406828

1.30pm St. Mark's Church Toddler Group. Debbie Coppenhall 356828.

2pm - Putnoe Bridge Club. Gerald Palmer 345991

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

2pm U3A Indoor Games at Putnoe Heights. Radmila Dancer 404811

4.00 Story box Plus at Putnoe Heights for 4-11 year old. Meet at 3.30 for refreshments & games. Then till 5pm make props, sing & rehearse a short play to perform in church on the 1st Sunday of each month Lots of fun And it's free! Liz Spavins 302349

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

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

6.15pm Brownies at Putnoe Heights. Helga Nash 218521

7.00pm Club 2000 at Putnoe Mrs M White 404992

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

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

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

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

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

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

Friday

9.30am U3A Exercise at Putnoe Heights. Carole Maunder 301325

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

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

6pm Self Defence at Putnoe. Mr James 0771 687449 or 07810 234890

7. 30pm Bibleway Young Peoples meeting Contact Pastor Tarr 360188

7.30pm Youth Club for age 13-18 at St Mark's Church. Contact PCSO Gina Carruthers 349179

Saturday

9.30 - 11.30am Stars School of Dance at Putnoe Heights. Contact Esther Sancto 272517 or 07917 582468

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

2.30pm Calligraphy Group at Putnoe Heights. Meets monthly next meeting. Philip Jones 350295

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

Sunday

Junior Church with crèche for under 3's

9.30 - 10.30 at St.Mark's

11-12 at Putnoe Heights.

1 - 4pm Tabernacle of Truth Church at Putnoe Heights - Worship. Contact Revd. Tarr 360188 Mob. 07866775515

6.00pm TNT (The Nearly Teens) meet fortnightly at Putnoe Heights for various fun activities. Contact Putnoe Office 365630

Diary Dates

St Mark's Church Council 14 June, 11 Oct

Circuit Meeting 16 Mar 2006 at Clapham

St Mark's Leadership Team – 24 Apr, 6 June, 12 Sept

Putnoe Heights Leadership Team - 2 May at the Manse

St Mark's Church Management Meeting

Putnoe Heights Management - 27 Feb, 15 May, 17 July 2006

Putnoe Church Council 12 June, 9 Oct

Pastoral Group Meeting –

Churchyard Committee -

Putnoe Heights Mission Group Meeting-

Partnership Council - 19 Sept

Brickhill Parish Council - 23 Mar, 27 Apr,

Deanery Eucharist 22 June

Annual Congregational Meeting 7 May 2006

Putnoe Heights Children & Youth - 26 Apr, 28 June

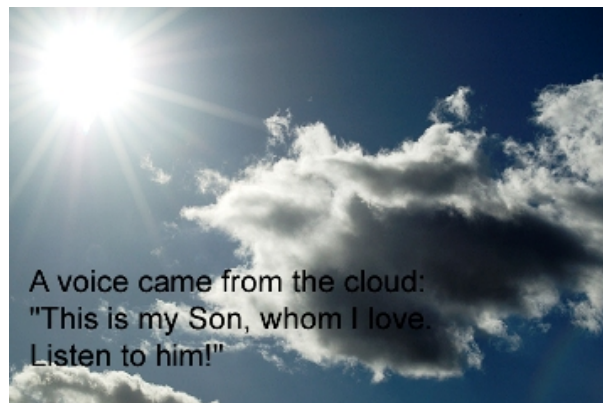
Calendar dates appear on our church website www.ThisChurch.com. Please advise St Mark's Church Office of the dates of your meetings.

Bible Notes Sunday Next Before Lent Year B

Verse of Scripture Mark 9 And a voice came from the cloud: "This is my Son, whom I love. Listen to him!"

A Collect Prayer - Before we read we pray

Holy God, you know the disorder of our sinful lives, set straight our crooked hearts, and bend our wills to love your goodness and your glory, in Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**



First Reading - 2 Kings 2: 1-12

When the LORD was about to take Elijah up to heaven in a whirlwind, Elijah and Elisha were on their way from Gilgal. Elijah said to Elisha, "Stay here; the LORD has sent me to Bethel." But Elisha said, "As surely as the LORD lives and as you live, I will not leave you." So they went down to Bethel. The company of the prophets at Bethel came out to Elisha and asked, "Do you know that the LORD is going to take your master from you today?" "Yes, I know," Elisha replied, "but do not speak of it." Then Elijah said to him, "Stay here, Elisha; the LORD has sent me to Jericho." And he replied, "As surely as the LORD lives and as you live, I will not leave you." So they went to Jericho. The company of the prophets at Jericho went up to Elisha and asked him, "Do you know that the LORD is going to take your master from you today?" "Yes, I know," he replied, "but do not speak of it." Then Elijah said to him, "Stay here; the LORD has sent me to the Jordan." And he replied, "As surely as the LORD lives and as you live, I will not leave you." So the two of them walked on. Fifty men of the company of the prophets went and stood at a distance, facing the place where Elijah and Elisha had stopped at the Jordan. Elijah took his cloak, rolled it up and struck the water with it. The water divided to the right and to the left, and the two of them crossed over on dry ground. When they had crossed, Elijah said to Elisha, "Tell me, what can I do for you before I am taken from you?" "Let me inherit a double portion of your spirit," Elisha replied. "You have asked a difficult thing," Elijah said, "yet if you see me when I am taken from you, it will be yours- otherwise not." As they were walking along and talking together, suddenly a chariot of fire and horses of fire appeared and separated the two of them, and Elijah went up to heaven in a whirlwind. Elisha saw this and cried out, "My father! My father! The chariots and horsemen of Israel!" And Elisha saw him no more. Then he took hold of his own clothes and tore them apart.

(Reader : This is the word of the Lord. **All: Thanks be to God**)

Second Reading - 2 Corinthians 4: 3-6

And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing. The god of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers, so that they cannot see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. For we do not preach ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord, and ourselves as your servants for Jesus' sake. For God, who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," made his light shine in our hearts to give us the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ. (Reader : This is the word of the Lord. **All: Thanks be to God**)

Third Reading - Mark 9: 2-9

After six days Jesus took Peter, James and John with him and led them up a high mountain, where they were all alone. There he was transfigured before them. His clothes became dazzling white, whiter than anyone in the world could bleach them. And there appeared before them Elijah and Moses, who were talking with Jesus. Peter said to Jesus, "Rabbi, it is good for us to be here. Let us put up three shelters—one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah." (He did not know what to say, they were so frightened.) Then a cloud appeared and enveloped them, and a voice came from the cloud: "This is my Son, whom I love. Listen to him!" Suddenly, when they looked around, they no longer saw anyone with them except Jesus. As they were coming down the mountain, Jesus gave them orders not to tell anyone what they had seen until the Son of Man had risen from the dead.

((Reader : This is the word of the Lord. **All: Thanks be to God**)

Post Communion Prayer

Holy God, we see your glory in the face of Jesus Christ: may we who are partakers at his table reflect his life in word and deed, that all the world may know his power to change and save. We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

Commentary

The episode today recorded in the Gospel of Mark has been called 'a window into a different world.' The recent film of 'The Lion the witch and the wardrobe.' by C.S. Lewis is a wonderful story of three children and their adventure in the magical land of Narnia. It is a children's book but also very grown up. It causes us to question whether there is another world. Many people are oblivious to a spiritual world, they are mindful of and governed only by the ordinary and the mundane.

This episode reminds us

1. That there is a place beyond our own time
2. That there is a spiritual realm.

That when we die we go to meet with God and exist in his presence. Interestingly of course Moses had not entered the promised land, yet now here he was clearly alive in God's promised land. For those considering what happens when we die this may be an interesting piece of scripture to remember. In this place clearly Moses and Elijah are presented as alive in God.

Christian are called pilgrims for many reasons, one of them is because we believe that we are on our way to another home, a kingdom which is not of this world, whose values are different. Success is to be measured in very different terms. We are to have hope and judge ourselves by the values of that Kingdom

Jesus had spoken to his disciples of death and suffering and they were afraid. Then the disciples saw Moses and Elijah! They must have been terrified. Here were two great pillars of the Jewish faith, men who it was believed had been spared death in the normal way. The disciples feared over so much, they were paralysed with fear, we too can be fearful without need. There is much over which we can be afraid, this episode gave the disciples something which would give them strength in the days ahead. This was an opportunity upon which they could reflect. This moment was something which they could not hold onto in time, but they could hold it in their hearts and draw strength from it. It was a God - given encouragement. So it was to be Peter spoke about it later: we had been eyewitnesses of his majesty [2 Peter 1:16-18]. It empowered them for service

We have all had some experience of the wonder of God. Sometimes it comes to us through the appreciation of nature, sometimes, indeed, on a mountain. But we all have to come back down the mountain and get on with real life, and most of our time is spent at the bottom of the mountain in the valleys of life. The ministry of Jesus could not be conducted from the mountain top, it was instead something carried out on the cross of suffering. But when the disciples were tempted to give up and think that the Christian service to which they were called was a hopeless cause, they were to look back and remember Christ as they knew him in the Transfiguration, clothed in glory.

Some of the details of the story are worth mentioning. Mountains were important places. If we think back in the Bible we will remember Moriah, Horeb, and Sinai. These were important mountains upon which God was made known. Moriah was where Isaac was nearly sacrificed, on Sinai Moses received the law and at Horeb Elijah met God.

We are told by Mark that the clothes of Jesus became '*stilbein.*' This is a word which is used for the bright appearance of gold or shining polished steel. We are reminded of the shekinah, the divine presence. In Jewish thought the presence of God is often associated with the appearance of cloud. Remember this is where Moses met God. When Solomon dedicated the Temple it was filled with cloud. By including the presence of cloud, Mark was saying something important about the presence of God with Jesus. This was important because Jesus had just been to Caesarea Philippi and determined to go to Jerusalem to die. This was a signal that God was with Jesus in this decision, he was following the path of God. This was confirmed by the presence of Moses the law giver and Elijah who represented the prophets. Everything that had gone before was now finding fulfilment in Jesus.

It is important for us to try and understand how significant this would have been for the disciples. They had no doubt been shattered by the decision of Jesus that he would go to die in Jerusalem. Now here was a scene in which they could receive assurance that Jesus had made the right decision. For a moment the cloak which divides our material world from the spiritual realm is drawn back for the disciples and they are able to receive a glimpse of the 'other side.' Many people would want to see the incident as some kind of hallucination, but this is to miss the point. In some ways this story is not unique. Throughout the ages there

are times when many Christians have been able to speak of having experienced the reality of God presence in a manner which is extraordinary and convincing. There are occasions when the curtain is pulled back momentarily and that which we hope for, which lies unseen is confirmed in a dramatic way. We should be sceptical of such reports, we should not expect them to come often, nevertheless they are true and we should rejoice that there are those who are able to speak of them and reassure us all in times when the valleys seem so much lower than the mountain tops.

God's grace is shown in such moments. By such tokens we are sustained in times of need or prepared for future service. God's grace is sufficient for us, for our empowerment, not for our enjoyment. God gives to our needs, not our greeds, the spiritual uplifting is to sustain us, not for our indulgence.

Charles Royden

Hymns (Please distribute Mission Praise and Morning Worship) 1. O Worship the Lord 529 Tune Was Lebet. 2. There's a sound on the wind 681 3. One day when heaven 540 Mission Praise 4. Thou who wast rich 700 Tune Fragrance 5. Ye holy angels bright 783 Tune Darwells



Meditation for Ash Wednesday

In a Christian culture which yearly becomes more self-indulgent, the ancient Biblical traditions of covering one's head with ashes and wearing sackcloth, is perhaps more meaningful than ever before. Ash Wednesday reminds of - **Mortality** The cross on our foreheads is a sign of mortality. The ashes, made by burning palm crosses from the previous Palm Sunday, are very symbolic. Ashes are reminders to us of our mortality. God made the first human being by breathing life into dust, and without God, human beings are nothing more than dust and ashes. This helps us to be mindful and live in the light of our ultimate accountability before God. There is nothing of which we may boast of ourselves, only of God.

Repentance Ashes are a symbol of suffering and mourning. Not because we have to endure a sparse Lent devoid of chocolate, but rather because we are sorry for that which is wrong in our lives and we want to change or to use the religious word - repent. It is not fashionable to repent any more either. Increasingly we are told that our sin is the responsibility of our parents, our upbringing, our lack of opportunities or whatever. Ashes are a recognition that we know there are things which we can do to change and be better Christians. The ashes are a symbol of sorrow for that which is wrong in our lives and a willingness to try and change. This is out of step with the world around us, like so much of our faith, it is counter culture. But I like the bravery of the gesture of taking the palms of the crowds, the shallow adoration of the masses, the triumphalism which Jesus so rejected, and using those same palms which the crowds waved, to make the crosses which mark out the faithful few.

Comfort The church has, quite rightly, been accused of making people feel bad about themselves, and that is true. We should never forget the tremendous privilege of being human, created by God. This is a wonderful thing, and the church has for too long focussed on our vileness and unworthiness. But Ash Wednesday and what I have said about mortality and repentance, is not about making people feel bad about themselves. The mortality and repentance of Ash Wednesday reminds us that we are all equal before God. Not one of us is better than anybody else. We all fall short and have no claim upon God's attention because we are a more wonderful human being. That is strangely a message of comfort! The human tendency to think ourselves better than others is not a nice one. Pride is a sin. However the abandonment of pride can lead to the discovery of great personal spiritual development. Released from the need to be beautiful, clever or successful, we can discover more of what God wants us to be. May Ash Wednesday and all of Lent mean these things to us this year. CR

Prayers for Sunday and the week ahead.

Mother/Father, all-powerful and ever-living God, we praise and thank you through Christ Jesus for your presence and action in the world. In the midst of conflict and division, we know it is you who turn our minds to thoughts of peace. The Spirit changes our hearts: enemies begin to speak to one another, those who were strangers join hands in friendship, and nations seek the way of peace together. The Spirit is at work when understanding puts an end to strife, when hatred is quenched by mercy, and when vengeance gives way to forgiveness. For this we never cease to thank and praise you. Amen.

Prayer for Peace John Bucki, SJ

Let me prefer your presence, O God, to all other company. Let me exalt your name, O Lord, above all other names and let me love your will, O God, beyond all other desires; for the sake of Jesus Christ. Amen. *Therese of Lisieux, 1873-1897*

News, Views and Information

Thank you to everyone who supported the Sounds Instrumental keyboard ensemble on Friday evening. Over £325 was raised for Mildmay.]

Holy Communion will be held at William Harpur House at 10.00am on the first Monday of every month in the Main Lounge. Members of the community are very welcome to attend..

The Leadership Teams at Putnoe Heights and St Mark's are currently having a series of meetings with those concerned in seeking the way forward for our Ministerial Team when Neil leaves this summer. If you would like to share any of your own thoughts please speak to any member of the Leadership Teams.

Ash Wednesday - This coming Wednesday 28 March There will be a service of Holy Communion with imposition of ashes in the Chapel at St Mark's at 7.30pm, all are welcome.

Storybox at St Marks Thursday lunchtime
We are looking for a least one more pair to help out with the catering approximately once every 5/6 weeks. If you would like to join us please speak to Liz . 20 children came to Storybox and 15 to Storybox plus this week at St Mark's. This is fantastic news, please offer your support. *Charles Royden*

Putnoe Junior Church The "help" rota is now on the notice board in the welcome area. If you would like to join us one Sunday and see what we get up to please put your name down. We look forward to welcoming you. Thanks Liz and Sam

Bedford Festival of Music, Speech & Drama at Bedford Corn Exchange (Howard Room) on Sunday 5 March at 6pm, Helen Morse, James Beswick, Lucy Charman & Chloe Coppenhall will represent the Church & Rachel Nash will represent Dame Alice in the Bible Reading class of this County Festival. Please come & support our young people. I can provide some lifts. Liz

Bedford River Festival 15 July. The theme is water. Can we do it ????. We are proposing as community project for Putnoe to take part in the carnival procession. If you or your family would like to be involved, there will be a short meeting Sunday 5 March following morning service at Putnoe. If you are unable to attend the meeting but would still like to be involved please contact Liz.

Storybox at both churches. If you would like to join either of our story telling teams after Easter please speak to Liz. You would be asked to tell a short, simple Bible based story to under 5's approx. once

every 2/3 months.

Footprints -Sunday 12 March 2.30pm. Meet at the Mowsbury Golf Club car park for a 4 mile circular walk in the Ravensden area. (The planned walk from Houghton Conquest has been postponed due to knee-deep mud on most of the route!) John and Sally Gunning (305925)

Confirmation/Membership On Sunday 12th March Bishop Richard will be officiating with Neil at a combined service at Putnoe at 11am. The Bishop will preach at St Mark's at the 9.30 service

The new cupboards have now been installed in the chapel at St Mark's. It has been suggested that it would be good to replace the existing chairs in the chapel with new wooden chairs, similar to the wooden chairs used in the church at Putnoe. The chairs may be donated and inscribed in memory. If you think that this is something which you would like then please speak with a member of the Leadership Team. Since the new cupboards are now fitted we look forward to welcoming the new Diocesan RE resources as soon as possible. A special public opening and resources exhibition has been set for Wednesday 5 July from 3pm—6pm.

Drawings of the new extension for St Mark's are on display in the foyer at St Mark's. If you have any suggestions re design of the new building please give us your comments ASAP as we are progressing with building regulations to enable work to begin in May.

Lent Course 2006 Belief and Unbelief

Held on Sundays at St Mark's.
The first session on Sunday 5 March at 4pm

5 March Professor Colin Russell
"Darwin's Time Bomb?"

1 March Rev'd Dr Joan Crossley
"God in close up"

19 March Rev'd Liz Macfarlane MA
"The Church fight back"

26 March Professor Paul Crossley
"Poetry and Doubt"

Women's World Day of Prayer Friday 3 March. 2pm at St. Luke's Church, Bedford - Speaker Revd. Dr. Joan Crossley. 7.30pm at St. Mary's Church Goldington speaker Revd. Janet Wootton Further deals from Kathie Longden 345760. All welcome

To Celebrate Peter's 70th birthday, Gwen & Peter invite friends from both churches to 'Open House' at 6 Repton Close for a chat, tea, coffee etc. from 10.30-12.30 or 2- 4pm on Monday 6 March. Please no presents, but a box will be available for voluntary donations towards the continuing specialised work at St. John's Hospice.

Confirmation/Admission to Membership We are looking forward to welcoming Bishop Richard to confirm a group of candidates at Putnoe at 11am on 12March. Neil will represent the Methodist connection as candidates will be admitted to adult membership at the same time.

Beat Managers for the Putnoe, Goldington and Brickhill areas of Bedford are urging residents to come forward and help them crack down on a spate of criminal damage which has occurred over recent weeks. Street signs in these areas have been targeted during late evening and overnight causing hundreds of pounds worth of damage. PC Glyn Milbourne, Beat Manager responsible for the Putnoe area said; "The signs are either damaged beyond repair or have disappeared completely. These signs cost in excess of £60 each to replace and the cost of the repairs will come out of the budget which is allocated from the Council Tax received from local residents." Anyone with information relating to these incidents can contact PC Milbourne, in confidence, at

Greyfriars Police Station on 01234 275229, or call Crimestoppers anonymously, on 0800 555 111.

'Auction of Promises' St Mark's Church Pre-school are planning a social evening on Saturday 8 July. If you would like to promise a service, gift or activity which can be auctioned to the highest bidder please contact Mrs Young or Mrs Harpin for details.342613

Thank You to Judith Stanton and her supporters for their generous donation of £140 to St Mark's church.

"God's Story in Action" Bishop Richard and a team from the Diocese have put together a 6 week course including a DVD and course booklet. If you would like to order a copy for your group the cost will be £20. Please see Milly.

Rest In Peace. We were saddened this week to hear of the death of May France. May lived opposite the church in Putnoe Heights until she entered residential care. May was one of the earliest members of the church sharing with others meeting in a house before the church was even built. She was always a loyal supporter of the church until her deteriorating health prevented her from regular attendance. Our prayers and best wishes are with her son Roger. Her funeral will be at Putnoe on March 7.

Rest in Peace

The funeral of Herbert Nicholls will take place on Monday 6th March at 11.30am at Bedford Crematorium *Crossley*

The funeral of Mario Florio will take place at Bedford Crematorium on Thursday 2 March at 11.30am *NBC*

The funeral of Gail Roberta Tuffnail will take place on Friday 10 March at 2.30pm *Royden*

The funeral of May France will take place at Putnoe Heights Church on Tuesday 7 March at 2.00pm *Royden*

The funeral of Philip Franklin will take place at Bedford Crematorium on Friday 10 March at 10.00am *Royden*

The funeral of Joan Frances Clothier will take place at Bedford Crematorium on Friday 10 March at 10.45am *Royden*



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 France

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

