



Methodist
Church

Partnership News

26 September 2004
26 in Ordinary

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



Church of
England

Church Services Today

8.30am Service of Holy Communion

Held at both churches

9.30am St Mark's Church Morning Worship

Preacher - Revd Neil Bramble-Chapman

Leadership Team - Mr Ian Farthing

Intercessions – Ministers

11.00am Putnoe Heights – Morning Worship

Preacher – Revd Neil Bramble–Chapman

Leadership Team - Mr Dave Allen

Intercessions - Mr Alan Bayliss

3 October Harvest Festival

8.30 am Service of Holy Communion

Held at both churches

9.30am St. Mark's Church – Morning Worship

Preacher—Revd.Charles Royden

Leadership Team - Mr.Ian Farthing

Intercessions Mr.Ian Farthing

11.00am Putnoe Heights - Morning Worship

Preacher – Revd Charles Royden

Leadership Team - Mr Alan Cooper

Intercessions - Ministers

Thank You

The flowers in church at St Mark's this week have been given by Doreen Smart in thankfulness for her safe recovery from last years accident.

The flowers at Putnoe Heights Church this week have been given by Mrs Veta Hudson –Rae in memory of her parents & to celebrate her birthday.

Prayer for Sunday

Lord, thank you for this building
Where we come for cleansing,
Where we gather around your table
Where we sing aloud your praise
Where we proclaim all that you have done for us
Lord, we love the house where you meet us,
the place where your glory dwells
In the assembly of your people,
we stand and praise the Lord. **Amen.**
From Psalm 26

Contact Details

The Reverend Dr. Sam Cappleman

107 Dover Crescent, Bedford MK41 8QR

266952 Fax- 402624 NSM@ThisisChurch.com

(Sam also works full time as a General Manager for Hewlett Packard)

The Reverend Neil Bramble-Chapman BA, CTM

(Day off Friday)

12 Hartop Close, Putnoe. MK41 8HE

326643 Minister@ThisisChurch.com

The Reverend Dr. Joan Crossley (Day off Friday)

30 Cutcliffe Grove, Bedford. MK40 4DD.

Home 344536 Crossley@Thisischurch.com

The Reverend Charles Royden (Day off Thursday)

The Vicarage, Calder Rise. MK41 7UY

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Partnership News is now available each week on the
Partnership Website - www.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 - 1.00pm Monday & Friday

9am - 4pm Tuesday/Wednesday & Thursday

Tel/fax & Answering Service 365630 www.ThisisChurch.com

Centre Manager Mr Barry Snelson 365630

Leadership Team - Mrs Elizabeth Wyatt 350188

Treasurer Mrs Kathryn Morse 216428

treasurerph@Thisischurch.com

Gift Aid Administrator - Mr John Hitt 404186

Junior Church Co-ordinator - Mrs Samantha Ware 313181

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

Tel/fax & Answering Service 342613 www.ThisisChurch.com

Centre Manager Miss Wendy Rider 342613

Wendy @thisischurch.com

Leadership Team - Mr Ian Farthing 210892

Treasurer - Mr John Day 295592 treasurer@Thisischurch.com

Gift Aid Administrator Mr Jim Williams 360605

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Regular Weekly Activities - A Guide To Our Churches

Monday

9.30 - 12.00 pm Pre-school (See website for more details) Mrs Janet Smith 326685 (Putnoe Heights) or Mrs. Helen Harpin **312634** (St. Mark's).
10.00 am Day Care Centre at St. Mark's Church for those with Learning Difficulties. Contact K Stenton 07748 760082
12.00pm - 1.00pm Storybox at Putnoe Heights Church. Service for parents/carers & children under 5. Children's activities songs and prayers, all in one hour from 12-1pm!
4.15 - 5.45pm Kumon Maths at Putnoe Heights. Contact Ms R.Mistry 01908 217555
6.00pm Brownies St Mark's. Mrs Gill Lake 218091
6.15 pm Brownies Putnoe. Alison McEwen 358583
7.30pm Sugarcraft Guild meets first Monday every month at St. Mark's Mrs. Jill Williams 357020
7.15 m Guides -St. Mark's. Mrs Gill Lake 218091
7.30- 9.30pm Creative Needles at Putnoe Heights. Mrs Hayward 307648
7.30pm Whist Drive - At St Mark's each month. Next 18 October St. Mark's Contact Mrs. Judith Stanton. 823313
7.30pm Housegroup 30 The Ridgeway. The home of Eddy & Margaret Peck 267567.
8.00 - 9.00 pm 'Get Fit, Stay Fit' at Putnoe Heights. Mrs Diane Field 404976

Tuesday

9.30am - 12.30pm Candlewicking (Needlework) at Putnoe Heights - Mrs Olive Shotbolt 267203
9.30am - 11.30pm Jo Jingles at St. Mark's. Music & movement for pre-school children. Contact Renu Elston 01908 282866
10.00am - 11.00am - Keep Fit at Putnoe Heights. Contact Mrs Stileman 822230
1.30 -3.00pm Putnoe Heights Church Toddlers Playtime Contact Geraldine Skeel 406828
12 noon - 10.00 pm Slimming World at St. Mark's. Sessions start at 12, 1.30pm, 4pm, 5.30pm & 7.15pm Contact Val Careless 345213.
2.15pm Putnoe Heights Women's Fellowship - Next meeting - 28 Sept. Mrs.L.PruddenContact Mrs Betty Wyatt 350188
2.15pm Putnoe Heights Men's Fellowship. Next meeting 5 October Contact Lawrence Wyatt 350188.
2.30pm Mother Teresa Support Group. Meets fortnightly at St. Mark's. Wool and knitting needles provided. Contact Mrs Joan Gravett 356911 and Mrs Marjorie Taylor 305709
2.30pm Tuesday Afternoon Housegroup. Meets fortnightly at St. Mark's Church. Contact Mary Stubbs 406784.
3.30 - 4.30pm Putnoe Heights Church Essential Stretch Contact Caroline 07778 898135 or 326096
6.30 - 7.30pm Yoga at Putnoe Heights. Contact Rachel Leontyne 01234 783129

6.45pm Guides at Putnoe Heights - Liz Rix 363607
7.00 - 8.00 pm Keep Fit at St. Mark's Church. Contact Mrs Jan Gregory 214107.
7.30- 9.00pm Bibleway Church at Putnoe Heights - Bible study & prayers. Contact Revd.Tarr 309881 or 07891095746
7. 45 pm Putnoe Heights Ladies Tuesday Club - Next meeting 5 October—Harvest Meets fortnightly . Contact Mrs C Davies 219130.
8.30-9.30pm St. Mark's - Qi Gong (Self help healing) group) - Contact Mr F Steele 355937

Wednesday

10.00 am Childminding Support Group at Putnoe Heights. Mrs S Longman 313949
10.00 am Day Care Centre Putnoe Height Church for those with Learning Difficulties. Contact K Stenton 07748 760082
10.00 am Holy Communion at St. Mark's Chapel. A half hour service followed by coffee. All welcome.
10am Sewing & Chat Putnoe Heights Contact Valerie Russell 01462 815966
12 - 1pm Putnoe Height Church Total Body Toning Contact Caroline 07778 898135 or 326096
Luncheon Club at St. Mark's meets fortnightly. Next one 6 October Contact St. Mark's 342613
1.30 - 4.00pm. Bridge Club for the Retired - Meets weekly at St. Mark's. Mrs Truss Boyce 781133
4.15 - 5.45pm Kumon Maths at Putnoe Heights Contact Ms R Mistry 01908 217555
6. - 7.00pm Self Defence at Putnoe Contact Mr James 07711 687449
6.00 -7.30 pm Brownies at St Mark's Contact Mrs Carol Warden 219731
7.00pm St. Mark's Church Bunyan Bridge. Contact Brian Sallows 407725
7-10pm Putnoe Guild - Putnoe Heights 3rd Wednesday each month. Contact Mrs Dallas 212609
7.45 - 8.45pm Kick Boxing Junior classes St. Mark's. Mr James 07711687449 or 07810234890
7.45pm Badminton Club at Putnoe Heights - all welcome. Contact Ken Marriott 214867

Thursday

9.30am Thursday Prayer Group at Putnoe Heights in the side chapel. Sylvia Cohen 343424 *Request for prayer can be written in the prayer diary on the information table.*
10.30am - 12.00am Brickhill Clinic at St Mark's with **Fledglings 2.00pm—3.00pm** Contact 267444
10.00am - 11.30am Yoga at Putnoe Heights Contact 244970
12 - 1.00 pm Storybox at St Mark's Church. Service for parents, carers & children under 5. Sandwich lunch, Bible Stories, Children's activities, songs & prayers, all in one hour from 12-1pm.
1.30 - 3.00 pm St. Mark's Church Toddler Group.

Contact Debbie Coppenhall 356828.

1.30 -3.00pm Putnoe Heights Church Toddlers

Playtime Contact Geraldine Skeel 406828

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

6.15 pm Weightwatchers at St. Mark's.

Contact Mrs Margaret Ralph 01767 224978.

6.15pm Brownies at Putnoe Mrs S Lewis 300198

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

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

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

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

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

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

Friday

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

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

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

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

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

Saturday

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

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

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

Sunday

1- 3pm & 7-9pm Bibleway Church at Putnoe Heights - Worship. Contact Revd. Tarr 309881 Mob. 07891095746

News, Views and Information

The Calendar

Putnoe Centre Management -27 Sept, 15 Nov

St Mark's Church Council

October 13 2004, Feb 1 2005

Churchyards Committee

Next meeting on Monday 17 Jan at 10am

St Mark's Centre Management Meeting

Wednesday 29 Sept

Wednesday 10 Nov

St Mark's Leadership Team

Next meeting on 17 Nov, 12 Jan

Deanery Synod

18 Nov,, 10 Feb

Partnership Council 18 Jan

Putnoe Heights Leadership Team

22 Nov

Putnoe Church Council

11 Oct 2004, 7 Feb 2005

13 June 2005, 10 Oct 2005

Pastoral Group Meeting

January 24 at 2.00pm

Calendar dates now appear on our church website www.ThisChurch.com. Please advise us if you have a date to be added to the church calendar.

Magnet Magazine If you are subscriber at St Mark's Church, will you please collect the current edition from the Church foyer.

Bedford YMCA are seeking a Treasurer to oversee the control of their finances & provide financial advise. Day to day financial work is carried out by paid staff. If you are in sympathy with the aims & purposes of the YMCA, & are interested, please contact Tony Gratton (Chief Executive) 01234307802

Church Rotas are available at both churches this morning for the next three months. You may also view copies of the rota online at our church website ThisChurch.com

The Christian Police Association are relocating to Bedford and will require an office administrator. This will be a key position in the life of this organisation supporting and encouraging Christians in the Police Service. The suitable person will be good at admin, verbal and written communication skills, computer skills, basic financial skills, ability to work as part of a team. For further information contact Don Axcell, 67 Upper Selsdon Road, South Croydon, CR2 8DJ. Closing date 23 October website www.cpauk.net

Wednesday morning Holy Communion Please note that the time has changed, for this week only, to 9.45am.

Bible Notes

26th Sunday in Ordinary Time



Verse of Scripture Psalm 91:91-10

If you make the Most High your dwelling-- even the LORD, who is my refuge-- then no harm will befall you, no disaster will come near your tent. For he will command his angels concerning you to guard you in all your ways; they will lift you up in their hands, so that you will not strike your foot against a stone.



A beggar and a rich man both died and went up to the pearly gates, what happened? No it is not a joke it a story told by Jesus in our Gospel reading today.

A Collect Prayer - Before we read we pray

Gracious God, you give the water of eternal life through Jesus Christ your Son. May we always turn to you, the spring of life and source of goodness; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. (*Methodist Worship*)

First Reading – Amos 6: 1a & 4—7

6:1a Woe to you who are complacent

4-7 You lie on beds inlaid with ivory and lounge on your couches. You dine on choice lambs and fattened calves. You strum away on your harps like David and improvise on musical instruments. You drink wine by the bowlful and use the finest lotions, but you do not grieve over the ruin of Joseph. Therefore you will be among the first to go into exile; your feasting and lounging will end. (Reader : This is the word of the Lord. **All: Thanks be to God**)

Second Reading– 1 Timothy 6 : 6—19

But godliness with contentment is great gain. For we brought nothing into the world, and we can take nothing out of it. But if we have food and clothing, we will be content with that. People who want to get rich fall into temptation and a trap and into many foolish and harmful desires that plunge men into ruin and destruction. For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil. Some people, eager for money, have wandered from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs. But you, man of God, flee from all this, and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance and gentleness. Fight the good fight of the faith. Take hold of the eternal life to which you were called when you made your good confession in the presence of many witnesses. In the sight of God, who gives life to everything, and of Christ Jesus, who while testifying before Pontius Pilate made the good confession, I charge you to keep this command without spot or blame until the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ, which God will bring about in his own time-- God, the blessed and only Ruler, the King of kings and Lord of lords, who alone is immortal and who lives in unapproachable light, whom no one has seen or can see. To him be honor and might forever. Amen. Command those who are rich in this present world not to be arrogant nor to put their hope in wealth, which is so uncertain, but to put their hope in God, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment. Command them to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share. In this way they will lay up treasure for themselves as a firm foundation for the coming age, so that they may take hold of the life that is truly life. (Reader: This is the word of the Lord - **All: Thanks be to God**)

Gospel Reading – Luke 16: 19—31

"There was a rich man who was dressed in purple and fine linen and lived in luxury every day. At his gate was laid a beggar named Lazarus, covered with sores and longing to eat what fell from the rich man's table. Even the dogs came and licked his sores. "The time came when the beggar died and the angels carried him to Abraham's side. The rich man also died and was buried. In hell, where he was in torment, he looked up and saw Abraham far away, with Lazarus by his side. So

he called to him, 'Father Abraham, have pity on me and send Lazarus to dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue, because I am in agony in this fire.' "But Abraham replied, 'Son, remember that in your lifetime you received your good things, while Lazarus received bad things, but now he is comforted here and you are in agony. And besides all this, between us and you a great chasm has been fixed, so that those who want to go from here to you cannot, nor can anyone cross over from there to us.' "He answered, 'Then I beg you, father, send Lazarus to my father's house, for I have five brothers. Let him warn them, so that they will not also come to this place of torment.' "Abraham replied, 'They have Moses and the Prophets; let them listen to them.' "No, father Abraham,' he said, 'but if someone from the dead goes to them, they will repent.' "He said to him, 'If they do not listen to Moses and the Prophets, they will not be convinced even if someone rises from the dead.'" (Reader: This is the word of the Lord - **All: Thanks be to God**)

Post Communion Prayer Almighty God, you have taught us through your Son that love is the fulfilling of the law: grant that we may love you with our whole heart and our neighbours as ourselves; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Hymns (Please distribute Hymns and Psalms and Morning Worship Services)

H&Ps 463 to God be the glory

MP 307&394 I will enter his gates/Jubilate everybody

H&Ps 378 Be thou my vision

H&Ps 139 The Kingdom of God

H&Ps 792 Fill thou my life

Commentary

Here we find a tale about how the fortunes of the rich and the poor are reversed after death. It reflects the traditional Jewish idea that following death people either find themselves in Hades, where they will be tormented or in heaven, a place of blessing. The contrast that we find in this passage could not be more stark. The rich man, used to a sumptuous lifestyle, experiences great suffering and the beggar, whose sores are licked by dogs, (what a disgusting idea!) now knows a life of luxury. The chasm of division that existed between the two men when alive, even though they were neighbours, is reflected in the afterlife. They remain physically close, the rich man can hold a conversation with Abraham and can see where the beggar is, but the division is equally impassable in the afterlife as it was when they were alive. The scandal of this story is that despite the fact that the rich man lived so close to the beggar, he did absolutely nothing about his neighbour's abject poverty.

This is a situation which sadly is all too common today. I recently read of homeless people in Romania who have to live in the sewers. The government has tried to close off the access points to these sewers to prevent people living in them, but this has only made them homeless and they end up living on the streets. Infact many find new ways back into the sewers because the alternative accommodation is just not there. Just imagine having to live in the sewers. It is a scandal that the Romanian Government effectively ignores this problem. We have also seen pictures of the shanty towns in Brazil and Mexico, where the very poor live alongside the affluent. What is our response to be? Will the priorities of the very rich ever change?

In the Gospel, the rich man seeks to warn his brothers of the fate which awaits them if they do not change their patterns of living. Abraham argues that they already have the prophets and Moses to warn them, since they spoke out against exploitation of the poor and that being in the right relationship with God meant sharing God's concern for the poor and the outcast. We can see here also a contemporary and modern failure to heed the Gospel of Christ, and a failure to be convinced of the resurrection of Christ. It is also a general failure to heed the message of the Gospel about loving your neighbour as yourself and sharing what we have with one-another.

Are we as guilty as the rich man of ignoring the scandal of poverty in our own neighbourhoods? Do we heed the message of the Prophets and the Gospel and truly put this into practice in every aspect of our lives? If not, what are you going to do about it? Neil Bramble Chapman

Meditation

Dogs in the Biblical and rabbinic traditions are almost as unclean as pigs. Both the Hebrew and Greek scriptures are clear witnesses to this. Dogs are kept as guard dogs (Isaiah 56:10), never as pets. Only those who feed them dare approach them. A rich man needs such dogs because they are his "home security system." The story assumes that the guard dogs are fed the scraps Lazarus longs to eat (cf. Matthew 15:27). Lazarus goes hungry. The dogs are fed. Yet, those wild guard dogs, whom no one but their handlers dare approach, realize that the weak, sick man by the gate is their friend. They lick his wounds. The saliva of a dog's mouth is sterile. The ancients discovered that when a dog licks a person's sores or wounds, healing occurs more rapidly. Archeologists in Aschelon, Israel have recently uncovered a center where 1300 dogs are buried in individual plots. The site has been identified as a Phoenecian semi-religious center where the sick could go, pay a fee and have trained dogs lick their wounds as medical treatment. In this parable the master refuses to help the poor sick man outside his gate - but his wild guard dogs will do what they can. They will lick his wounds. Their master will not help Lazarus. They will. Lazarus' quiet gentle spirit breaks through their violent hostility to humans and they care for him knowing that he cares for them. *Charles Royden*

Prayers for Sunday and the week ahead

Your are never tired, O Lord, of doing us good. Let us never be weary of doing you service. But as you have pleasure in the well-being of your servants, let us take pleasure in the service of our Lord and abound in your work and in your love and praise evermore.

O Lord our God, under the shadow of your wings we will rest. Defend us and support us, bear us up when we are little, and we know that even down to our grey hairs you will carry us. *St Augustine*

Gracious father,
we pray for peace in the world: for all national leaders
that they may have wisdom to know and courage to do what is right;
for all men and women,
that their hearts may be turned to yourself in the search for righteousness and truth;
for those who are working to improve international relationships,
that they may find the true way of reconciliation;
for those who suffer as a result of war:
the injured and disabled,
the mentally distressed,
the homeless and hungry,
those who mourn their dead,
And especially for those who are without hope or friend to sustain them in their grief.
Baptist peace fellowship.

Across the barriers that divide race from race:

Across the barriers that divide rich from poor:

Across the barriers that divide people of different faiths:

Reconcile us, O Christ, by your cross (World Council of Churches Vancouver Assembly)

I will enter his gates

I will enter His gates
with thanksgiving in my heart,
I will enter His courts with praise.
I will say this is the day that the Lord has made
I will rejoice for He has made me glad.
He has made me glad! He has made me glad!
I will rejoice for He has made me glad.
He has made me glad! He has made me glad!
I will rejoice for He has made me glad.

Jubilate (Sing twice)

Jubilate, everybody,
serve the Lord in all Your ways,
And, come before His presence singing;
enter now His courts with praise.
For the Lord our God is gracious,
and His mercy everlasting.
Jubilate, Jubilate, Jubilate Deo!

Wednesday Drop In (Bereavement Support Group)

From next month we will have an entertainment on the first Wednesday in the month.

Wednesday 6 October, well known local singer Linda Bowen will perform for us 2.30—3.15.

Wednesday 3 November, Jo Moore from Bedford Tourist Information will speak on Historic Bedford & her fascinating 'Bedford at War Project @ 2.30—3pm. All drop in sessions are open to everyone.

Advent Course. Our course will take the theme of 'Pilgrimage,' with four talks on 24 November, 1, 8 and 15 December at Putnoe Heights Church. The evenings will begin with refreshments at 7.30pm for 8.00pm start. Each evening will finish at 9.00pm. We are delighted that the first two of our talks this year will be given by Professor Paul Crossley. Other speakers will be The Reverend Dr Joan Crossley and the detective novelist Kate Charles.

Congratulations. We were delighted to hear this week that one of our organists, Adrian Quarry, has been awarded the Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music Diploma for Organ Performance. Well Done Adrian!

St Mark's Church Pre-school and Hazeldene

Heights Pre-school would like help collecting Persil Stars from washing powder boxes to be able to get free art and craft materials. Thank you Helen Harpin Pre-school Co-ordinator and Janet Smith Head of Pre-school.

Saints and Warthogs " All good things must come to an end!" and unfortunately our season has ended but with an incredible 15 wins from 16 matches. We are staging the inaugural Bedford Churches Indoor Cricket League during the winter and we are also looking forward to our annual dinner at the Slater's Arms next month at which the end of season awards will be made to: Neil Bramble-Chapman, Mike Cooper, Darren Burt, Bryce Titman, Tom Day, Parwaz Khan, Mark Collier, Daniel Doyle and David Gilbert. Many congratulations to them all. Adrian Quarry.

Partnership Harvest Appeal. Wells For Malawi

The appeal is going better than we could have hoped. So many people and church groups have got behind the project. On Saturday night Rosemary and Colin McNeilage from St Mark's bought wells as part of their joint birthday celebration party. Their guests thought it was a brilliant idea and were pleased to give an additional £135.75. At Putnoe Heights, Pam and Bob Burn sold apples from their garden at church to fund a well. There are many more generous ideas which we know will help us to reach our target. We have now forwarded the funds to 'Faith in Action' which we have already raised. This will enable well drilling to be started before the bad weather.

We will have a full update next week as a part of harvest festival

Putnoe Heights have agreed to act as a 'bank' for the Partnership for the project so it would be helpful if you could make your cheques payable to Putnoe Heights Church.

Have you voted? The Daily Telegraph is compiling 100 favourite churches for Sunday worship. Please take time to complete a nomination form for St Mark's or Putnoe Heights by visiting the Telegraph website at www.telegraph.co.uk/churches. Please also encourage others. Computer access is available at St Mark's for those who wish to use it to register a vote. Please vote today! Please also consider voting for Partnership News as the best church newsletter

Riding Lights on Saturday 9 October 7.30pm At Putnoe Heights Church, Bedford.

Riding Lights Theatre Company presents the PRISON & CHURCH TOUR 2004 of 'Hope Opera' The Stuff of Life. Imagine a kitchen in a house down the road from you. A mismatched group of people trading tales of their great scrapes and escapes. Pushing bags of the white stuff around a table with scarred and tattooed fists. It's flour, of course. They're making bread. This is a place where people live their own stories; where sharing your story could open a window on eternity. Hope Opera's a place at that table, with the mix of heroes and hopeless cases: a boy with nothing but tattoos to his name, a girl whose curiosity got the better of her, a man made of anger. Extraordinary stories told in extraordinary ways... colourful, moving, unforgettable, Hope Opera stops you in your tracks, turns things round, and starts you off in new directions. A remarkable blend of grit and grandeur, masks and music, getting a grip on the stuff of real life.

Thank You. To Marion and all the volunteers who helped at St Mark's Church yesterday in the working party. A great deal was accomplished.

Please Note. That owing to circumstances beyond our control the book sale of Harmony Books has been cancelled. There are still a number of books which are in the chapel and these may be viewed at any time. Special reductions beyond half price will now apply. Please select your book and ask at the office for a price

Quiet Weekend 8-10 October 2004 at St Francis House, Hemingford Grey. St Andrew's Church would be pleased to welcome anybody from our churches who would like to go on this retreat. The last date for booking is Friday 1 October. The weekend will be led by Rev Roy Hubbard who leads the 'Prayer and Painting' movement.

Our Harvest Celebrations



Tickets for the Harvest Barn Dance

are now on sale at St Mark's and Putnoe Height Church Office. The £6.50 ticket includes a Ploughmans Supper as well as music and dancing to our live band. Children under 12 £4.

Raffle Prizes for the Barn Dance Evening will be gratefully received. Please leave in the office or see one of the Leadership Team.

Please do come even if you are on your own or can't stand dancing. You can just sit and enjoy the music played by our band. Please bring your own drinks for the barn dance there will be no bar.

Tickets for Putnoe Heights Harvest Lunch .

Tickets are now available in the church office £4 adults, £2 children under 10. Soft drinks provided, please bring your own wine.

Harvest Festival Services Next Week



This year our festival will give thanks to God for technological and industrial things, as well as our traditional thanksgiving for produce from the land. We will especially give thanks for the money raised for the wells in Malawi project. The technology required to drill these wells will produce clean water for whole communities.

Please bring harvest gifts of fruit, vegetables and especially tins which will be given this year to the terminally ill in residential care.

We would also be pleased for help with the distribution of harvest cards to invite people to our service.

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.

**Alice Dora Brand
Mark Frank Fornum
Joy Hammond**

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

Flowers

We are extremely grateful when donations are made for the flowers. This may be as a celebration of a happy occasion such as an anniversary or in memory of someone who has died.

Contact

Miss Marion Prior 303254
(St. Mark's) or
Miss Jennie Cooper
404950 (Putnoe Heights).

