



Methodist  
Church

# Partnership News

28 May 2006

## Seventh Sunday of Easter

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 with Baptism**

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 - Mrs Jenny Emsley  
Intercessions - Mrs Sylvia Cohen

### 4 June - Pentecost

**8.30 Service of Holy Communion**  
**9.30am St Mark's Church – Family Worship**

Preacher - Revd Dr Joan Crossley  
Leadership - Mr Mike Cooper  
Intercessions - Mrs Morag Stewart

**11.00am Putnoe Heights - Family Worship & Baptisms**

Preacher - Revd Dr Joan Crossley  
Leadership Team - Mr Alan Bayliss  
Intercessions - Mrs Claire Pack

**Reading 1 : Acts 2: 1-21**

**Reading 2 : Romans 8: 22-27**

**Reading 3 : John 15: 26-27 and John 16:4b-15**

### Thank You

The flowers at Putnoe Heights Church this week have been given by Derrick Stoneham in memory of his wife, Marjorie, and by Doris Wilson in memory of her sister, Stella.

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

Risen Christ, you have raised our human nature to the throne of heaven: help us to seek and serve you, that we may join you at the Father's side, where you reign with the Spirit in glory, now and for ever.

*Common Worship Shorter Collect*

### Welcome

A special welcome at St Mark's Church to the family and friends of Eva Veronica Alison who has been brought for baptism.

### 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** - Mr Alan Bayliss 268101  
**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** - Mrs Janet Day 295592  
**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](http://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

**8.30 - 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.

**Mini-Strikers Sport for Children** at Putnoe aged 2-4 years. Contact Andy Carey 01908 313751 or 07766 142754, or [www.ministrikers.co.uk](http://www.ministrikers.co.uk)

**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 19 June 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. Helen Folbigg 351223

**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 6 June Revd. J Owen .Contact Betty Wyatt 350188.

**2.15pm Putnoe Heights Men's Fellowship.** Next meeting 6 June with the Women's Fellowship contact 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** at Putnoe Heights. Esther Sancto 272517 or 07917 0582468.

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

**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

**7.30pm Dog and Puppy Training** at Putnoe Heights. Contact Lynn Southwell 07974 743240

**7. 45 pm Putnoe Heights Ladies Tuesday Club** - Meets fortnightly. Next meeting 30 May. Talk about Royal Ladies. Cecil Parry. Contact Madge Walsh 359088

**8.30pm St Mark's Church Qi Gong.** Contact Mrs D Steele 356384

## Wednesday

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

**9.30am - Body Control Pilates** at Putnoe Heights. 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 31 May 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** at Putnoe Heights . 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

#### 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

**1.30pm - 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 302349

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

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

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

**2pm U3A Indoor Games** at Putnoe Radmila Dancer  
404811

**4.00 Story box Plus** at Putnoe Heights for 4-11year  
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 Helga Nash 218521

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

**7pm Street Dance** at Putnoe Heights. Contact Curtis  
Ritchie 349255 or 07984 525147

**7.00pm Club 2000** at Putnoe Mrs M White 404992

**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** at Putnoe  
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** 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.

Contact Esther Sancto 272517 or 07917 582468

**2pm U3A Gardening Group** at Putnoe Heights.

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

**7.30pm Youth Club for age 13-18** at St Mark's  
Church. Contact PCSO Rowland Gilbey 349179

#### Saturday

**9.30 - 11.30am Stars School of Dance** at Putnoe.  
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. 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** - 8 June

**St Mark's Leadership Team** - 6 June, 12 Sept  
**Putnoe Heights Leadership Team** - 13 June

**St Mark's Church Management Meeting**  
**Putnoe Heights Management** -

**Putnoe Church Council** 12 June, 9 Oct  
**Pastoral Group Meeting** -

**Churchyard Committee** - 5 June 11a.m

**Putnoe Heights Mission Group Meeting** - .

**Partnership Council** - 19 Sept

**Brickhill Parish Council** -

**Deanery Meeting** St Mary's Eucharist 22 June, 14  
September, 16 November

**Putnoe Heights Children & Youth** - , 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.**



## Seventh Sunday of Easter

### Opening Verses of Scripture Psalm 5:11

But let all who take refuge in you be glad; let them ever sing for joy. Spread your protection over them, that those who love your name may rejoice in you.

### A Collect Prayer - Before we read we pray

Eternal God, you have given all authority in heaven and on earth to your Son, our Saviour

Jesus Christ. Grant that we may never lose the vision of your kingdom but serve you with hope and joy; through him who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen. *Methodist Worship*

### First Bible Reading - Acts 1:15–17, 21-26

In those days Peter stood up among the believers (a group numbering about a hundred and twenty) and said, “Brothers, the Scripture had to be fulfilled which the Holy Spirit spoke long ago through the mouth of David concerning Judas, who served as guide for those who arrested Jesus—he was one of our number and shared in this ministry.” Therefore it is necessary to choose one of the men who have been with us the whole time the Lord Jesus went in and out among us, beginning from John’s baptism to the time when Jesus was taken up from us. For one of these must become a witness with us of his resurrection.” So they proposed two men: Joseph called Barsabbas (also known as Justus) and Matthias. Then they prayed, “Lord, you know everyone’s heart. Show us which of these two you have chosen to take over this apostolic ministry, which Judas left to go where he belongs.” Then they cast lots, and the lot fell to Matthias; so he was added to the eleven apostles

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

### Second Reading - 1 John 5:9-13

We accept man's testimony, but God's testimony is greater because it is the testimony of God, which he has given about his Son. Anyone who believes in the Son of God has this testimony in his heart. Anyone who does not believe God has made him out to be a liar, because he has not believed the testimony God has given about his Son. And this is the testimony: God has given us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life. I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God so that you may know that you have eternal life.

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

### Third Reading - John 17:6-19

(Please stand for the Gospel. When the Gospel is announced - ‘**Glory to Christ our Saviour**’)  
“I have revealed you to those whom you gave me out of the world. They were yours; you gave them to me and they have obeyed your word. Now they know that everything you have given me comes from you. For I gave them the words you gave me and they accepted them. They knew with certainty that I came from you, and they believed that you sent me. I pray for them. I am not praying for the world, but for those you have given me, for they are yours. All I have is yours, and all you have is mine. And glory has come to me through them. I will remain in the world no longer, but they are still in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them by the power of your name—the name you gave me—so that they may be one as we are one. While I was with them, I protected them and kept them safe by that name you gave me. None has been lost except the one doomed to destruction so that Scripture would be fulfilled. “I am coming to you now, but I say these things while I am still in the world, so that they may have the full measure of my joy within them. I have given them your word and the world has hated them, for they are not of the world any more

than I am of the world. My prayer is not that you take them out of the world but that you protect them from the evil one. They are not of the world, even as I am not of it. Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth. As you sent me into the world, I have sent them into the world. For them I sanctify myself, that they too may be truly sanctified.

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

**Post Communion Prayer**

Eternal God, whose Son Jesus Christ is the way, the truth, and the life: grant us to walk in his way, to rejoice in his truth, and to share his risen life; who is alive and reigns, now and for ever. Amen

**Hymns** (*Please distribute Morning Worship and Baptism booklets at St Mark's* )

**First Hymn** Joy to the world

*Hymns and Psalms 77 Tune Antioch*

- 1 Joy to the world, the Lord has come!  
Let earth receive her King;  
let every heart prepare him room,  
and heaven and nature sing.
- 2 Joy to the earth, the Saviour reigns!  
Your sweetest songs employ;  
while fields and streams and hills and plains  
repeat the sounding joy.
- 3 He rules the world with truth and grace,  
and makes the nations prove  
the glories of his righteousness,  
the wonders of his love.

**Second Hymn** If you want joy

If you want joy, real joy, wonderful joy,  
Let Jesus come into your heart.  
Your sins He'll wash away,  
Your night He'll turn to day,  
Your life He'll make it over anew,  
And then come in to stay.  
If you want joy, real joy, wonderful joy,  
Let Jesus come into your heart.  
*Anonymous 96 Junior Praise*

**Third Hymn** Glorious things of thee are spoken 817 *Hymns and Psalms Tune Austria*

- 1 Glorious things of thee are spoken,  
Zion, city of our God;  
he whose word cannot be broken  
formed thee for his own abode.  
On the Rock of Ages founded,  
what can shake thy sure repose?  
With salvation's walls surrounded,  
thou may'st smile at all thy foes.
- 2 See, the streams of living waters,  
springing from eternal love,  
well supply thy sons and daughters,  
and all fear of want remove.  
Who can faint while such a river  
ever flows their thirst to assuage-  
grace which, like the Lord the giver,  
never fails from age to age?
- 3 Saviour, if of Zion's city  
I through grace a member am,  
let the world deride or pity,  
I will glory in thy name.  
Fading is the worldling's pleasure.  
all his boasted pomp and show;  
solid joys and lasting treasure  
none but Zion's children know.

## Fourth Hymn Joyful songs, of broken people

Joyful songs of broken people  
smiling faces, lilting praise  
welcome those who come to worship  
in the cauldron of these days.

Listen to the wondrous story  
born in poverty and fear,  
thousands, now ten thousand voices  
ringing out that God is near.

Near because we carry with us  
love of God in every heart;  
love that holds, that binds, protects us,  
love that never will depart.

*Tune Sussex*

	<b>Woodland Burial Update</b>
<p>For some years many of us in the Partnership have been seeking to establish a woodland burial ground. We are pleased to report that we are about to make a planning application for a woodland burial ground in Keysoe. The application would allow us to consecrate a two acre site in existing community woodland, with small but established trees.</p>	
<p>We will keep you posted with further information on the progress of the application.</p>	

## Fifth Hymn Joyful, Joyful, we adore thee

1. Joyful, joyful, we adore thee,  
God of glory, Lord of love;  
Hearts unfold like flowers before thee,  
Hail thee as the sun above!  
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness;  
Drive the dark of doubt away;  
Giver of immortal gladness,  
Fill us with the light of day.

2. All thy works with joy surround thee,  
Earth and heaven reflect thy rays,  
Stars and angels sing around thee,  
Centre of unbroken praise;  
Field and forest, vale and mountain,  
Flowering meadow, flashing sea,  
Chanting bird and flowing fountain  
Call us to rejoice in thee.

3. Thou art giving and forgiving,  
Ever blessing, ever blest,  
Well-spring of the joy of living,  
Ocean-depth of happy rest!  
Thou the Father, Christ our Brother,  
All who live in love are thine;  
Teach us how to love each other,  
Lift us to the joy divine.

4. Mortals join the mighty chorus,  
Which the morning stars recall;  
Father-love is reigning o'er us,  
Kindred love binds each to all;  
Ever singing march we onward,  
Victors in the midst of strife;  
Joyful music lifts us sunward  
In the triumph song of life.

*Tune: Ode to joy*

## Commentary

From even before his birth we are told that the presence of Jesus should bring joy and if we read the pages of Scripture we recognise that Christians should be people overflowing in their joy and delight. The Christmas stories tell us that when Jesus was born it was a time for Joy to come to the earth. So it was that when the Magi saw the baby Jesus they were 'overjoyed.' The angels went on to make it clear that joy was coming to earth in Jesus. "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people."

And so we ask the question, is unbridled joy a characteristic of the Christian? When people think of what Christianity stands for, do they think of joyfulness? The answer I suspect is an undoubted 'No'.

Although one of the enduring proofs of the presence of the Spirit is joy, we often fail to show this fruit in our

lives. (Galatians 5:22). Christians are encouraged by scripture to 'Rejoice always', (1 Thessalonians 5:16), but so often we do not and it is as if the writer to the Phillipians knew of our reluctance, when he wrote his letter he said, 'Rejoice in the Lord always,' then he added 'Again I will say, rejoice!' (Philippians 4:4) It is as if he knows of our joyless condition and wants to make it clear, 'look I really do mean it, rejoice!' It is not just OK for Christians to enjoy themselves, it should be a part and parcel of our daily living. How else are we to persuade people that the Christian life is worth choosing?

There is so much to rejoice about, but sadly we have a disposition to think of the things which trouble us. As an example, the church has so much to be joyful about but so often we focus on the things which divide us. Is it possible that if churches spent more time rejoicing with one another we might find less time to fall out with one another?

Would more joyful Christians also be more united Christians? It is interesting that in this passage Jesus also prays to God that 'they may be one as we are one.' One of the most heartbreaking tragedies of the church is that our history is one of division and condemnation and competition with each other. It is a scandal that the body of Christ on earth is divided in the way that it is. It is quite remarkable that we can read this passage of scripture today in churches across the world, whilst we still continue to keep divisions alive. We can blame all sorts of people throughout the history of Christianity for the reasons why churches are divided and yet it is us who perpetuate the wrongs of the past. It is us who cling to our own parties, who refuse to move outside our comfort zones. It is us who refuse to allow the power of love to unite us and transcend human differences of opinion.

There are therefore at least two very important messages of mission in the reading today.

1. Be a joyful church
2. Be a united church

If the church was both joyful and united, then it would be a church drawing attention to itself in the right ways, it would be attractive and have a relevant message. This is important in society today. People are looking for happiness, yet seek fulfilment in things which are disappointing and do not stand the test of time. What passes for life enhancing opportunities are so often the cause of disillusionment. Solid joys and lasting treasure, none but Zion's children know! *Charles Royden*

### **Meditation**

Joy may be expressed in laughter, yet it draws from a deep spring that keeps flowing long after transient laughter has died. Joy survives the fleeting happiness of this world, and overcomes the tears of our too short lives, because it trusts in the promise of the world to come. Joy enables us to be cheerful even when the world has become tired and grey with grief and worry.

### **Prayers for Sunday and the Week Ahead**

Lord, help us to know Joy as a spring always welling up within us and give us power to dance through life, not as men and women who are blind to sorrow, misery or shame, but as those who know your victory over death and who cannot but rejoice. *Edmund Banyard*

O joy that seekest me through pain  
I cannot close my heart to thee  
I trace the rainbow through the rain  
and feel the promise is not vain  
that morn shall tearless be.

O Christ, you were called the man of sorrows, and yet you prayed for your disciples that they might have your joy; grant us such sympathy as takes upon itself the burden of the sorrowing; and with it such glad courage as shall turn the way the sadness into the way of joy, because we follow in your footsteps, O blessed master, Jesus Christ. Amen. *Walter Russell Bowie*

As the hand is made for holding and the eye for seeing, you have created me for joy, O God. Share with me in finding that joy everywhere: in the violet's beauty, in the lark's melody, in the child's face, in a mother's love, in the purity of Jesus. *Traditional Scottish Gaelic Prayer*

My God, I pray that I may so know you and love you, that I may rejoice in you. And if I may not do so fully in this life, let me go steadily on to the day when I come to that fullness...Let me receive that which you promised through your truth that my joy may be full. *St Anselm*

**Annual Moody & Sankey Evening** at Park Road on Sunday 4 June at 6.30pm. If you would like to choose a hymn let Bill Davies or Jenny Clifford (404644) know by 29.5.06. If you would like to say a few words about your choice you are welcome to but it is not compulsory. Everyone is welcome to come for a rousing sing. Jenny Clifford.

**Footprints Rambling Group** weekend away in Cannock Chase, 23 & 24 September. Details now available from Sue Allen 407264.

**T.T.T.** (The Emergency Relief Fund). Thanks to the generosity of those who save their small coins, a cheque for £300 has been sent to Oxfam for use in the East African Appeal. Anyone interested in helping this fund can speak to the collector on the door at Putnoe each Sunday morning.

**The Garden of Remembrance** is going to be "open" on the 4 June, 2.30 - 4.30pm in aid of the Retirement Education Centre. Thanks for the help already offered. Help with tray bakes still needed. Please contact Marion Prior 303254 a.s.a.p. (not in church today, at Arts camp) Don't forget the working party on 1 June 6pm till dark, to do any last minute tidying, deadheading etc. Please bring own equipment as church tools and kneelers are limited!

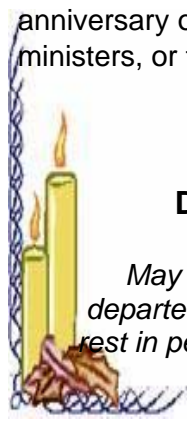
**A Booklet entitled My Story** a Positive Approach to Being Disabled, by Lance J Mason is now available at 50p per copy. Half the proceeds will go into Church funds. To place an order please add your names to the list being held in Putnoe Heights and St Mark's Church Office.

### 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.

**Edgar York  
Mary Barton  
Dora Edith Griffiths**

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



**British Cardiac Patients Ass.** Next Meeting at Putnoe Heights at 7.30pm on 22 June. Entertainment by 'Frame of Mind'. Come and enjoy the evening with us. Raffle, coffee or tea & biscuits. More information Eileen Marriot 303834.

**Small Fridge for sale** 3 months old 2 shelves, chill drawer and small freezer compartment 2 star. Cost £80. If interested contact Ada Hill 343274

**Car Boot Monday 29 May.** Any contributions to the church stall are welcome also any tray bakes please.

**No Storybox or Story box Plus** this week 29 May - 2 June due to holidays. Liz.

**Table Top Sale** at Priory Methodist Church on Saturday 10th June 2006, 9.30 - 12.30. Admission 50p. Tables £4 each. All proceeds to Park road Methodist Church. Tel 404644

**York.** Joan, Caroline, Nick, Andy and family would like to thank everyone who came to Edgar's funeral. Thanks for all the lovely cards and messages of sympathy. Special thanks to Joan and Charles for the lovely service and all the members of Putnoe Heights Church who have given us such tremendous support in our loss. Thanks in particular to Sue Allen and her catering team.

**Teddy BearTimes.** Church Times this week reports of a 'new' idea which has come to a church in Oxford to hold a teddy bear service. *'Speaking on Tuesday the Vicar said 'it was definitely "a homegrown idea", and came out of a discussion held after the Easter Day dawn service. "All of the four churches and the three villages have got really into the idea, and we are expecting a lot of bears." He was used to animal services, but toy bears would be a first.'*

Clearly Church Times didn't 'do a Google' and check before making these extravagant claims of a first. Surely they would have found that as usual the Partnership was first to welcome teddy to say his prayers!

**In aid of St James Church.** An Evening of Summer Music in the gardens of Biddenham House (Gold Lane, Biddenham) on Saturday, August 26th 2006 From 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. Gardens open at 4.30 p.m. Licensed Wine Bar. Bring your own picnic and buy our Posh Puds. Rewarding Raffle. Tickets: £10 each Family Ticket (2 adults + 2 children) £25. Tickets must be purchased in advance. Call: 01234 211 649 or 01234 364 251