



Methodist  
Church

# Partnership News

29 April 2007  
Fourth of Easter



Church of  
England

## Partnership Church Services Today

**8.30am Holy Communion every Sunday** on the 1st, 3rd & 5th Sunday at Putnoe Heights Church. On the 2nd & 4th Sunday at St Mark's Chapel.

### 9.30am St Mark's - Holy Communion with PCH

Preacher - Revd Martin Hounsfield  
Leadership - Linda Parry  
Intercessions – Ministers

### 11.00am Putnoe - Holy Communion with PCH

Preacher - Revd Martin Hounsfield  
Leadership Team - Alan Bayliss  
Intercessions - Eddy Peck

## May 6

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

Preacher – Revd Charles Royden  
Leadership Team - Mr Mike Cooper  
Intercessions - Mr Ian Farthing

### 11.00am - Putnoe Heights - Family Worship with Baptism

Preacher - Revd Charles Royden  
Leadership Team - Mr Lawrence Wyatt  
Intercessions - Mrs Sue Allen

**Reading 1:** Acts 11: -1-18

**Reading 2:** Rev 21: 1-6

**Reading 3:** John 13: 31-35

## Thank You

The flowers at St Mark's have been given by Jan Cooper in remembrance of Peter's birthday, and also commemorate his passing earlier in the month.

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

May all created things praise you, O Lord.  
May you be blessed  
in the fellowship of human hearts.  
May you be worshipped by the exile,  
hallowed by the pilgrim  
and adored by the saints;  
until together we come to the palace  
of your heavenly glory;  
and this we ask through Christ our Lord.  
**Amen.**

## Contact Details

### The Reverend Dr. Sam Cappleman

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

### The Reverend Dr. Joan Crossley (Day off Friday)

30 Cutcliffe Grove, Bedford. MK40 4DD.  
Home 344536 Crossley@thisischurch.com

### The Reverend Charles Royden (Day off Thursday)

The Vicarage, Calder Rise. MK41 7UY  
309175 Mobile 07973 113861 vicar@thisisChurch.com

### For Data Protection Purposes

Please note that any items submitted for inclusion in Partnership News will automatically be posted on our website.

Partnership News is also archived on our  
church website [www.ThisisChurch.com](http://www.ThisisChurch.com)

## Partnership Pastoral Support Team Co-Ordinator & Churchyards Administrator

Mrs Mary Stubbs 406784 Mary@Thisischurch.com  
*Please inform us if you know of anyone who is ill, bereaved,  
housebound, requires a visit, home communion or counselling services.  
Please also ask us if you would like a home visit for any reason.*

## Putnoe Heights Church Centre

Open 9am—5pm Monday to Friday

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

Centre Manager Mr Barry Snelson 365630 & 344417

Leadership Team - Mr Alan Bayliss 268101

Treasurer Mr Ian Morse 216428 treasurerph@thisischurch.com

Gift Aid Administrator - Mr John Hitt 404186

Youth & children's worker - Mrs Liz Spavins 302349

youth@thisischurch.com

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

Tel/fax & Answering Service 342613 office@thisischurch.com

Centre Manager Miss Wendy Rider 342613

Leadership Team - Mrs Janet Day 295592

Treasurer - Mr John Day 295592 treasurer@thisischurch.com

Gift Aid Administrator Mr Jim Williams 360605

# Regular Weekly Activities - A Guide To Our Churches

## Monday

**9.30-12.00pm Mon-Fri Putnoe Heights Pre-school**

Headteacher Mrs Janet Smith ☎326685

**8.30-5.30pm Mon-Fri St Mark's Pre-school**

Headteacher Mrs. Helen Harpin ☎312634

(See website for more details)

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

**10.00am Bakers Barn Art Group.** St Mark's

Mr Kellie ☎721063

**12.00-1.00pm Story box** Putnoe Heights church welcome the under 5's and their carers to join them between 12noon and 1pm for a sandwich lunch followed by a Bible based story and singing. ☎Liz 302349

**2.30-4.30pm Bedford Arts Society** at Putnoe Heights

Malcolm Smith ☎01234 400741 (weekly from 25 September 2006)

**4.00pm Storybox Plus** Putnoe Heights for 4-9 year Old. Meet at 3.30 for refreshments & games. Then till 5pm 'follow the year' through stories, drama, singing & craft activities. We then make a short presentation in church on first Sunday in each month. ☎Liz Spavins 302349

**4.15pm Rosemary Conley Diet & Fitness.** Putnoe

Heights. Miriam Adcock ☎01908 565044

**4.15-6.00pm Kumon Maths** Putnoe Heights.

Ms Raksha Mistry ☎01908 392698

**6.00pm Brownies** St Mark's. Mrs C Mathew ☎826190

**6.15 pm Brownies** Putnoe. Sharon Tanner ☎364710

**7.30pm Sugarcraft Guild** meets first Monday every month at St. Mark's Mrs Pauline Parrott ☎768419

**7.15 m Guides.** St. Mark's. Mrs Gill Lake ☎218091

**7.15pm Yoga.** Putnoe Heights Karen Simpson ☎244970

**7.30pm Creative Needles.** Putnoe Heights.

Jacky Hayward ☎307648.

**7.30pm Whist Drive.** St Mark's each month next 16 April Judith Stanton. ☎823313

**7.30pm Housegroup** 30 The Ridgeway. The home of Eddy & Margaret Peck ☎267567.

**8.00pm 'Get Fit, Stay Fit'** at Putnoe Heights. Mrs Diane Field ☎404976

## Tuesday

**9.30am Candlewicking** (Needlework). Putnoe Heights.

Judi Staughton ☎341821

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

Helen Folbigg ☎351223

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

☎822230

**1.30-3pm Toddlers Playtime.** Putnoe Heights.

Andrea ☎210177 or Majella ☎325293.

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

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

Mrs Burman ☎364723

**2.00pm Library Walk W.I.** Putnoe Heights, meets

monthly. Mrs C Allen ☎363878

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

**2.15pm Putnoe Heights Women's Fellowship** - Next meeting 24 April A Slide Show by Miss A.Doody Betty Wyatt ☎350188.

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

**2.30pm Tuesday Afternoon Housegroup.** St Mark's Meets fortnightly. Mary Stubbs ☎406784.

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

**6.30 - 7.30pm Yoga** Putnoe Heights.

Rachel Leontyne ☎783129

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

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

**7-9pm MT Karate** [all ages] Putnoe Heights.

Karen King ☎07941 264885

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

**7.30pm Tabernacle of Truth Church.** Putnoe Heights.

Bible study & prayers. Revd.Tarr ☎360188 or 07866775515

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

**7.45pm Putnoe Heights Ladies Tuesday Club** - Meets

fortnightly. Next meeting 24 April A Talk on Aloe Vera ☎365068 or Margaret Gentle ☎309043

## Wednesday

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

**9.30am Childminding Support Group.** Putnoe Heights.

Mrs S Longman ☎313949

**9.30am - Body Control Pilates.** Putnoe Heights.

Stephanie Smith ☎357787.

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

**10.00am Holy Communion.** St. Mark's Chapel.

A half hour service followed by coffee. All welcome.

**10am Sewing & Chat.** Putnoe Heights Valerie Russell ☎01462 815966

**10.30 am U3A Art Appreciation** Putnoe Heights Fortnightly. Audrey Hancock ☎365915.

**Luncheon Club.** Putnoe Heights fortnightly. Next meeting 2 May 2007 Putnoe Heights Office ☎365630

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

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

**2.15pm - Fifty plus Keep Fit.** Putnoe Heights

Mrs Webster ☎856966

**4.15-6pm Kumon Maths.** Putnoe Heights

Mrs Raksha Mistry ☎01908 392698

**6.00 pm Brownies.** St Mark's.

Mrs Carol Warden ☎219731

**6.15-7.45pm Yoga and Relaxation** Putnoe Heights

Racheall Monton ☎01234 297138

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

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

Brian Sallows ☎407725

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

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

**7.00pm Putnoe Guild** meets monthly. Putnoe Heights.

Janice ☎Loxley 347073

**7.45pm Badminton Club.** Putnoe Heights

All welcome. Ken Marriott ☎214867

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

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

### Thursday

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Mrs Margaret Ralph ☎01767 224978.

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

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

Mr & Mrs Pike ☎823795

**7.00pm Club 2000** Putnoe Heights

Sheila Jakeman ☎261935

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

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

**7.30-9.30pm Embroiderers' Guild** St Mark's

3rd Thursday of the month. Mrs E Rigby ☎344442

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

**7.45pm Housegroup** meets fortnightly

Betty Wyatt ☎350188

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

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

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

### Friday

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

### Saturday

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

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

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

### Sunday

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

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

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

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

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

## Diary Dates

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

**St Mark's Leadership Team – 9 May** at the Vicarage, 26 June Linda Parry

**Putnoe Heights Leadership Team –30 April** at Alan Cooper's

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

**Putnoe Heights Centre Management - 14 May, 16 July**

**Putnoe Church Council - 11 June**

**Pastoral Group Meeting – 8 May**

**Churchyard Committee - 6 June**

**Putnoe Heights Mission Group Meeting**

Wednesday 13 June, 14 Flint Way.

**Partnership Council -**

**Brickhill Parish Council**

Meetings on 7 June, 5 July

**Deanery Meeting -**

**Putnoe Heights Children & Youth–**

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



### Telecare

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

## Fourth Sunday of Easter

### Opening Verse — Psalm 23

The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not be in want.

### Collect Prayer for the Day

Risen Christ, faithful shepherd of your Father's sheep: teach us to hear your voice and to follow your command, that all your people may be gathered into one flock, to the glory of God the Father. *Common Worship Shorter Collect.*

### First Bible Reading - Acts 9: 36-43

In Joppa there was a disciple named Tabitha (which, when translated, is Dorcas), who was always doing good and helping the poor. About that time she became sick and died, and her body was washed and placed in an upstairs room. Lydda was near Joppa; so when the disciples heard that Peter was in Lydda, they sent two men to him and urged him, "Please come at once!" Peter went with them, and when he arrived he was taken upstairs to the room. All the widows stood around him, crying and showing him the robes and other clothing that Dorcas had made while she was still with them. Peter sent them all out of the room; then he got down on his knees and prayed. Turning toward the dead woman, he said, "Tabitha, get up." She opened her eyes, and seeing Peter she sat up. He took her by the hand and helped her to her feet. Then he called the believers and the widows and presented her to them alive. This became known all over Joppa, and many people believed in the Lord. Peter stayed in Joppa for some time with a tanner named Simon. (This is the word of the Lord -- **Thanks be to God**)



### Second Bible Reading - Rev 7: 9-17

After this I looked and there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and in front of the Lamb. They were wearing white robes and were holding palm branches in their hands. And they cried out in a loud voice: "Salvation belongs to our God, who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb." All the angels were standing around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures. They fell down on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, saying: "Amen! Praise and glory and wisdom and thanks and honour and power and strength be to our God for ever and ever. Amen!" Then one of the elders asked me, "These in white robes--who are they, and where did they come from?" I answered, "Sir, you know." And he said, "These are they who have come out of the great tribulation; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. Therefore, "they are before the throne of God and serve him day and night in his temple; and he who sits on the throne will spread his tent over them. Never again will they hunger; never again will they thirst. The sun will not beat upon them, nor any scorching heat. For the Lamb at the centre of the throne will be their shepherd; he will lead them to springs of living water. And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes (This is the word of the Lord -- **Thanks be to God**)

### Gospel reading - John 10: 22-30

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

"Then came the Feast of Dedication at Jerusalem. It was winter, and Jesus was in the temple area walking in Solomon's Colonnade. The Jews gathered around him, saying, "How long will you keep us in suspense? If you are the Christ, tell us plainly." Jesus answered, "I did tell you, but you do not believe. The miracles I do in my Father's name speak for me, but you do not

believe because you are not my sheep. My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no one can snatch them out of my hand. My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all ; no one can snatch them out of my Father's hand. I and the Father are one."

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

**Hymns** (Please distribute Hymns and Psalms and Holy Communion with Christian Healing)

1. God is here as we his people **653**
2. Seek ye first the Kingdom of God **138**
3. God is love. let heaven adore him **36**
4. The King of Love my Shepherd is **69**

### **Commentary**

Today's Gospel takes us back to a time before the Crucifixion, as Jesus is walking in the temple. The Jews gather around him questioning, perhaps taunting him. "How long will you keep us in suspense? If you are the Messiah, tell us plainly." The question they ask lacks sincerity. We know that they do not believe Jesus is the Messiah, in fact quite the opposite, they believe him to be nothing less than an heretic and trouble maker. Their hope is that he will confirm this by telling them plainly that he is the Messiah. And with this declaration he will give them permission to prosecute him and rid themselves of his annoying threat to their power and authority. Jealousy and anger form a powerful mix and these emotions are directed towards Jesus.

Once again, however, Jesus refuses to be drawn. Instead, as he often did, he turned the question back to them, saying, "I have told you and you do not believe." How has he told them? His works, he says, testify to who he is. There is plenty of evidence, he assures them, the real issue is their own belief, or lack of it.

Belief is what the Gospel challenges us about this morning. Of course we do believe, don't we? Here we are in the midst of the season of joyous belief. Easter is the celebration of victory over death, the awareness of our lives redeemed forever from the power of sin, fifty days of gratitude for penance paid and absolution guaranteed for all eternity. But the question continues to tug at the back corners of our minds. Do we believe—and how?

Our Western mind has been formed by the notion that belief is based on evidence. The scientific method depends on the formulation of an hypothesis, which we then test by experimentation. If the data from the experiment confirms the hypothesis, we may be reasonably certain. If the evidence fails to confirm the hypothesis, we must revise it or create a whole new theory. A belief is firmly rooted in observation and evidence collected in support of it. However these Jews had seen and observed Jesus for some time, but the testimony of his works is not enough for this group.

So how does one get to be one of those sheep who knows the Master's voice, a member of the flock that cannot be snatched from his hand? The time comes when evaluating the evidence must end. Eventually all the questions we have to ask become evidence only of our own procrastination. The deep chasm of uncertainty that stands between the known and the possible has no bridge except our own choice to believe.

Throughout these fifty days of Easter, we are moving inevitably to the day of Ascension. The memory of these Easter days must sustain us for the rest of the year. These are the days when we stand close to the flame of the Paschal candle so that we may look closely at the world lit by its brilliance. We should hold these memories of the world lit by the promise of eternal life as in the dark days that come. Today, in the midst of the stories of Christ's appearances, we are called to remember that these miracles, wrought by God's great gift, Jesus Christ, are not ours by evidence, not by hypotheses proven by experiments. They are ours by choice. We believe.

The choice is freely offered as a gift to every person who has, or does, or will ever live. It is a choice which allows us to experience inward and spiritual grace. It is also a choice that calls us to lives that produce signs, distinctive behaviours, that will be noticed by those around us. It is a choice that sets us apart from the rest of the world, and yet urges us to invite the rest of the world to join us. It is a choice that calls us to make Easter, and a sense of the presence of Christ, alive not just for fifty days but every day. This is the choice each of us will carry with us, the choice to live each day spreading the joy and vitality of this love of God to all people for all time. Alleluia!

### **Meditation Psalm 23**

The LORD is my shepherd, I shall not be in want.  
He makes me lie down in green pastures,  
he leads me beside quiet waters, he restores my soul.  
He guides me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake.  
Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil,  
for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.  
You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies.  
You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.  
Surely goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life,  
and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.

*O Lord Jesus Christ, Thou Good Shepherd of the sheep, who camest to seek the lost, and to gather them into Thy fold, have compassion upon those who have wandered from Thee, feed those who hunger, cause the weary to lie in Thy pastures, bind up those who are with broken heart, and strengthen those who are weak, that we, relying on Thy care and being comforted by Thy love, may abide in Thy guidance to our lives' end. Amen. 5c prayer*

### **Post Communion Prayer**

Merciful Father, you gave your Son Jesus Christ to be the good shepherd, and in his love for us to lay down his life and rise again: keep us always under his protection, and give us grace to follow in his steps; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

### **Prayers for Sunday and the week ahead**

Loving Shepherd of your sheep, keep your lamb in safety, keep;  
Nothing can your power withstand, none can pluck me from your hand. *Jane Eliza Leeson*

Dear Father, whom I cannot see, I know that you are near to me. Quite quietly I speak to you, please show me what you'd have me do. Please help me plan kind things to do, for other people and for you. Thank you for always helping me, dear Father, whom I cannot see. *Lilian Cox*

My dearest Lord, be thou a bright flame before me, be thou a guiding star above me, be thou a smooth path beneath me, be thou a kindly shepherd behind me, today and evermore St Columba

Lord, lift me up, put me in the palm of your hand, and unlock the sealed chamber of my heart. Let love come in. Lord I have been walking, Lord, hold my hand. I'm tired of stumbling in dark alleys, put me in the palm of your hand. Lord, lift me up. Show me that love is still around. Lord, lift me up. Show me that love is still around. *James Matthews*

God, our loving Father, thank you that you never change. You are as strong and wise and loving as the day you made the world. Thank you that nothing can ever happen that will make you alter. You are the one true God and Maker of all. Amen

Glory be to you, O Father, our true and only hope. Glory be to you, O Son of God, our true and only refuge. Glory be to you, O Holy Spirit, our true and only protection. Glory be to you, O Holy Trinity, our true and only light; now and to the ages of ages. Amen *A Prayer of the Eastern Church*

**Footprints** next Ramble is 6 May at 2.30pm. Please meet in the public car park on V10 - 100yards from Bow Brickhill Railway station. Sturdy footwear is recommended as the ground is uneven in places. There are 1 or 2 steepish climbs but there will be plenty of recovery time. If the weather is doubtful on the day, please ring before setting out. More details from Sue & Richard Butler 354183.

**Footprints Walking Group.** Walking Weekend 21,22,23 September 2007. Details of the annual away weekend are now available. The venue will be the Nightingale Hotel and Leisure Club situated in a quiet village on the outskirts of Swindon which boasts a swimming pool, fitness suite and health spa. For walkers the Cotswolds and the Ridgeway Path are close by. Non walkers have easy access to shopping and the Railway Museum in Swindon. More details from Sue Allen (407264)

**Chairs for sale.** Since the arrival of the extra 20 chairs in the chapel at St Mark's, we now have too many chairs in the church. We have sorted through them and there are about 25 chairs which the Leadership Team have agreed to sell. They are not in great condition, but would respond well to recovering. We are initially asking £2. 50 per chair. Please do help yourself.

**Thank you** to Judith Stanton and her supporters for their kind donation to the church of £120.

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

**Adopt-a-bed Scheme.** Help is needed to keep weeds at bay in new garden areas. If you could adopt a bed and keep it weed free and dead headed please sign up on plan in foyer or talk to Marion. Thank you.

**Christian Aid week goes gold and green**  
Christian Aid Week (13-19 May), Britain's longest running door-to-door fundraising week, turns 50 this year. To mark this golden jubilee it is going green by encouraging people of all ages to plant trees in support of its overseas work on climate change projects.  
Christian Aid works with 700 local organisations

across 50 developing countries. Working with poor communities, it trains people to deal with the effects of climate change and prepares them for the threat of natural disasters. These local organisations – or 'partners' – also work on HIV, training and education, health and sanitation and peace and reconciliation.

This year Christian Aid is encouraging people to plant trees in their gardens, community spaces and churchyards as a way of reflecting on the impact deforestation and climate change is having on poor communities around the world. For more information visit: <http://www.christian-aid.org.uk/>

**Christian Aid Week.13 -19 May.** We would be grateful for anyone who would be willing to collect in this area. Please contact the church office.

**TNT** - Sunday 13th May- Evening Trip to Bedford Butterfly Park. 6.00 - 7.30. We are taking over for the evening!!! Andrew Green, the owner, will give us a guided tour of the butterfly and hay field areas and refreshments can be provided. We can take up to 40 people so if anyone from either Church would like to join us please speak to Liz asap. Cost £4.50 adults, £4.00 concessions £3.00 under 16's. Lifts can be organised.

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

### **Opening the electronic gateway to the Church of England**

Details of the extensive collection of archives and manuscripts cared for by Lambeth Palace Library and the Church of England Record Centre are now available online through a searchable catalogue.

The move means that readers worldwide can search the joint catalogue of these archives of the Church's National Institutions via the Lambeth Palace Library website,

[www.lambethpalacelibrary.org](http://www.lambethpalacelibrary.org)

[www.lambethpalacelibrary.org](http://www.lambethpalacelibrary.org) .

The development will enable users to retrieve information from almost 130,000 records across the two sites.

Two ladies in a museum filled with Rembrandt paintings. One lady to the other, "We've already been here, I remember the fire extinguisher!  
How often people surrounded by the presence of God fail to even notice.

**Kempston Musical Society** perform Rutters Requiem, and Vivaldi Gloria, at Kempston East Methodist Church. on Saturday 28 April at 7.30pm Tickets £8 available at the door or from members of the society. Further details 01234 854858

**St Albans Woodland Burial Trust.** The next meeting of the Trustees will take place on 7 May at 12.30pm

**Car Boot Sale** on Monday 7 May. Any donations for the Church stall and tray bakes for refreshments will be very welcome.

**Pastoral Group.** Please note that the next meeting of the pastoral committee will take place on Tuesday 8 May at 4.30pm at St Mark's Chapel. If you have any helpful comments on pastoral care in the partnership, please speak with Mary Stubbs.

**St Mark's Church Leadership Team.** Please note that the next meeting of the St Mark's Leadership team will take place at the Vicarage on 9 May.

**Columbaria.** It has arrived ! Do take time to view the new columbaria which has been installed in the Garden of Remembrance at St Mark's this week. It is quite outstanding as a feature, This will provide the unique opportunity to purchase a vault in a granite wall for the interment of ashes. Since it is in consecrated ground, unlike other such facilities, this will be granted in perpetuity. (In council cemeteries places for ashes are rented, usually for about 40 years after which they are removed.) If you would like more information then please speak with Mary Stubbs.

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

### **Nomination for Church Councils**

Are you interested in becoming a member of Putnoe Heights or St Mark's Church Council, or do you know somebody who would be interested? If so here is a good opportunity to serve your church for the benefit of its members and the local community. If you are interested you will need a proposer and seconder. If you wish to propose somebody else you will need their consent and a proposer and seconder. Please complete a nomination form (obtainable from the church office) and then hand it the church office by the latest for Sunday 29 April.

The annual congregational meetings will this year be held on 6 May 2007 after the Sunday morning service. We hope that people will feel that it is more convenient to simply remain behind after the service.

**Mother Teresa Support Group** –Would you like to spend a pleasant afternoon in good company, knitting and chatting with a cup of tea and biscuits to sustain you? If so, you would be very welcome to join us at St Mark's on alternate Tuesdays. Our next meeting is at 2.30pm on Tuesday 1st May. Wool, needles and patterns provided.

**Thank you** for saving all your plastic sleeving. I now have a Sainsbury's bag full and I think I have plenty for my needs. If you have already saved more please do send them to St Marks, but don't worry about further collection. I do however still collect the "cellophane" sleeving from greetings cards, so offering of these will continually be welcomed. (They are needed for packing hand made cards/envelopes) Thanks again, Marion.

### **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.

#### **Martin Summers**

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



### **Rest in Peace**



**The funeral of Mr Bernard Careless** will take place at Bedford Crematorium on Tuesday 1 May at 11.30am

**The funeral of Mervyn John Balderstone** will take place at Bedford Crematorium on Thursday 3rd May at 2.30pm (Crossley)