

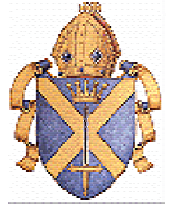


Methodist
Church

The Partnership

29 February 2004
First Sunday in Lent

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 – Holy Communion with prayer for Christian Healing

Preacher – Rev Dr Sam Cappleman

Leadership Team - Mrs Iris Perry

Intercessions – Mr John Tatman

11.00am Putnoe Heights Church

Holy Communion with Prayer for Christian Healing

Preacher – Rev Dr Sam Cappleman

Leadership Team - Mr. Peter Bailey

Intercessions - Mr Alan Bayliss

Sunday 7th March

8.30am Service of Holy Communion

Held at both churches

9.30am St Mark's Church – Family Service

Preacher – Rev Charles Royden

Leadership Team - Mr Jim Williams

Intercessions – Mrs Margaret Appleton

11.00am Putnoe Heights Church - Family Service

Preacher – Rev Charles Royden

Leadership Team - Mr Peter Parker

Intercessions - Mr Alan Bayliss

Thank You

The flowers at St Mark's this week have been given by Joan Stafford in memory of her husband Jim.

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).

Prayer for Sunday

**Gracious Father,
Your blessed son Jesus Christ,
came from heaven to be the true bread
which gives light to the world.
Evermore give us this bread,
that he may live in us, and we in him;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**
Methodist Worship

Contact Details

The Reverend Dr. Sam Cappleman

107 Dover Crescent, Bedford MK41 8QR

266952 Fax- 402624 Sam_Cappleman@hotmail.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

309175 Mobile 07973 113861 Vicar@ThisisChurch.com

Time for God Volunteer Kasia Piecyk

St Mark's Flat - 315455

Partnership Website - 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.*

Putnoe Heights Church Centre (Open 9am - 1.00pm)

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

Centre Manager Miss Wendy Rider 342613

Wendy @thisischurch.com

Leadership Team - Mr Stephen Clare 308299

Treasurer Mrs Kathryn Morse 216428

treasurerph@Thisischurch.com

Gift Aid Administrator - Mr John Hitt 404186

Junior Church Co-ordinator - Mrs Samantha Ware 304058

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 Jim Williams 360605

Treasurer - Mr John Day 295592 treasurer@Thisischurch.com

Gift Aid Administrator Mr Jim Williams 360605

Hymns are printed under CCL Lic No. 1501

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 at St. Mark's Church G.O.L.D. (*Growing to Overcome Learning Difficulties*).

Day Care Centre - Mrs. Karen Bywater 269515

12.00pm - 1.00pm Storybox at Putnoe Heights Church. Service for parents/carers & children under 5. Sandwich lunch, Bible Stories 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 17 March 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

12.30 -3.00pm Putnoe Heights Church Toddlers Playtime Contact Geraldine Skeel 406828

1.45pm - 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 - March 2nd Revd Charles Royden. Contact Mrs Betty Wyatt 350188

2.15pm Putnoe Heights Men's Fellowship. Next meeting 6 April Members Afternoon 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. 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 - 9.30pm Bibleway Church at Putnoe Heights - Bible study & prayers. Contact Pastor Tarr 348438 or 07773354129

7. 45 pm Putnoe Heights Ladies Tuesday Club - Meets fortnightly . Next meeting 2 March A Talk about the Red Cross Anne Bonham Contact Mrs C Davies 219130

8.00pm Tuesday Housegroup next fortnightly meeting is at 16 Swindale, Contact Alison 403551 or Brian 305347.

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 G.O.L.D. (*Growing to Overcome Learning Difficulties*) meets at Putnoe Heights Church. Day Care Centre. Contact Mrs Karen Bywater 269515

10.00 am Holy Communion at St. Mark's Chapel. There will not be any communion this week due to a funeral.

10am Sewing & Chat Putnoe Heights Contact Valerie Russell 01462 815966

12 - 1pm Putnoe Height Church Total Boding Toning Contact Caroline 07778 898135 or 326096

Luncheon Club at St. Mark's meets fortnightly. Next one 3 March 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.

12.30 -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 at St. Mark's - G.O.L.D.

(Growing to Overcome Learning Difficulties). Day
Care Centre - Contact Mrs. Karen Bywater 269515

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

Sunday

1- 3pm & 7-9pm Bibleway Church at Putnoe

Heights - Worship. Contact Pastor Tarr 348438

Mob. 07773354129

News, Views and Information

Forthcoming meetings. Please check!

Partnership Council 8 June

Putnoe Centre Management

26 Apr, 7 Jun, 26 Jul,

St Mark's Centre Management

Church Council at St Mark's

Wednesday 16 June in the Chapel

Churchyards Committee

Next meeting 1st March 2004

Putnoe Leadership Team Meeting

Tuesday 2 March at Putnoe Heights Church

Wednesday 5 May.

St Mark's Leadership Team

28th April at Jim Williams, Wednesday 26 May,

Tuesday 7 September

Annual Congregational Meetings Sunday 9

May 3.00pm at St Mark's and 4.00pm at Putnoe

Putnoe Church Council

Monday 14 June

Future Event The Fun Run June 13th at

2.30pm St Mark's More details to follow

Putnoe Heights Church Flower Donations

Pastoral Support Team Wednesday 17 March

at 2.30pm

Blue Peter Bring and Buy

Sale Sunday 29th February

in aid of Get Together Appeal

for After School Care for

Children with Learning

Difficulties. Members of

Putnoe Heights Junior Church

are organising a bring and buy

sale after church next . Any

contributions of cakes etc gratefully received on
the day.



Margaret and Claire Peck are diving into

Robinson Pool towards the end of March to put

their strokes to good use. They are taking part in

the Butlins Swimathon in order to help raise

funds for Macmillan Cancer Relief and the

Swimathon Foundation. If you would like to

sponsor them please telephone Margaret

(267567) or Claire (358063). Thank you

Margaret and Claire

Spring Craft Day Saturday 27 March at

Southdown Methodist Church, Harpenden.



Bible Notes, Lent 1 (29 February 2004: Year C, Purple)

Opening Verse of Scripture Psalm 91:1

They who dwell in the shelter of the Most High will rest in the shadow of the Almighty.

Collect Payer for the Day - Before we read we pray

Almighty God, whose Son Jesus Christ fasted forty days in the wilderness, and was tempted as we are, yet without sin: give us grace to discipline ourselves in obedience to your Spirit; and, as you know our weakness, so may we know your power to save; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

First Bible Reading Deuteronomy Chapter 26 v 1 - 11

When you have entered the land that the LORD your God is giving you as an inheritance and have taken possession of it and settled in it, take some of the firstfruits of all that you produce from the soil of the land that the LORD your God is giving you and put them in a basket. Then go to the place that the LORD your God will choose as a dwelling for his Name and say to the priest in office at the time, I declare today to the LORD your God that I have come to the land that the LORD swore to our forefathers to give us. The priest shall take the basket from your hands and set it down in front of the altar of the LORD your God. Then you shall declare before the LORD your God: My father was a wandering Aramean, and he went down into Egypt with a few people and lived there and became a great nation, powerful and numerous. But the Egyptians ill-treated us and made us suffer, putting us to hard labour. Then we cried out to the LORD, the God of our fathers, and the LORD heard our voice and saw our misery, toil and oppression. So the LORD brought us out of Egypt with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm, with great terror and with miraculous signs and wonders. He brought us to this place and gave us this land, a land flowing with milk and honey; and now I bring the firstfruits of the soil that you, O LORD, have given me. Place the basket before the LORD your God and bow down before him. And you and the Levites and the aliens among you shall rejoice in all the good things the LORD your God has given to you and your household. (This is the word of the Lord -- **Thanks be to God**)

Second Reading Romans Chapter 10 v 8b – 13

The word is near you; it is in your mouth and in your heart, that is, the word of faith we are proclaiming: That if you confess with your mouth, Jesus is Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved. As the Scripture says, anyone who trusts in him will never be put to shame. For there is no difference between Jew and Gentile-- the same Lord is Lord of all and richly blesses all who call on him, for, Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved. (This is the word of the Lord -- **Thanks be to God**) (This is the word of the Lord -- **Thanks be to God**)

Gospel Reading Luke Chapter 4 v 1 – 13

(When announced - Glory to Christ our Saviour)

Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the desert, where for forty days he was tempted by the devil. He ate nothing during those days, and at the end of them he was hungry. The devil said to him, If you are the Son of God, tell this stone to become bread. Jesus answered, It is written: 'Man does not live on bread alone.' The devil led him up to a high place and showed him in an instant all the kingdoms of the world. And he said to him, I will give you all their authority and splendour, for it has been given to me, and I can give it to anyone I want to. So if you worship me, it will all be yours. Jesus answered, It is written:



'Worship the Lord your God and serve him only.' The devil led him to Jerusalem and had him stand on the highest point of the temple. If you are the Son of God, he said, throw yourself down from here. For it is written: 'He will command his angels concerning you to guard you carefully; they will lift you up in their hands, so that you will not strike your foot against a stone.' Jesus answered, It says: 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.' When the devil had finished all this tempting, he left him until an opportune time. **(Praise to Christ our Lord)**

Post Communion Prayer

Lord God, you have renewed us with the living bread from heaven; by it you nourish our faith, increase our hope, and strengthen our love: teach us always to hunger for him who is the true and living bread, and enable us to live by every word that proceeds from out of your mouth; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

Hymns (Please distribute Holy Communion and Mission Praise)

1. Through all the changing scenes of life, **702**
2. He that is in us, **219**
3. Forty days and forty nights, **160**
4. Lead us heavenly Father lead us, **400**

Commentary

Lent is the time in the church year where we are offered space for reflection and repentance. Sin is a part of all of our lives and none of us are strangers to temptation. Like Jesus, we are most vulnerable to the twisting, distorting forces of evil at those times where we are also most open to God. If Jesus had not been so consumed with passion for the hungry, the oppressed and those who have not experienced the power of God, the devil's proposals to Him would not have been the least bit tempting. But He was, and the resources that He had in those stark wilderness days can be ours as well.



The temptation of Jesus was for the sole purpose of distracting him from His ultimate goal and purpose in life, which was to die on the cross as the atoning sacrifice for humanity. As he tries to distract Christ from this goal Satan tempts Jesus in three different ways. He tempts Him to concentrate on His physical needs, he tempts Him to take moral shortcuts, and he tempts Him to focus on Himself rather than His Father God. Temptations which assail us all from one time or another.

Jesus was able to resist temptation because he was clear about His purpose and destiny and was able to focus on knowing and doing the will of the Father who had sent Him into the world. For Jesus and for every Christian, overcoming temptation is not just about knowing what *not* to do, it's about knowing what we *should* be doing, about the fulfilling to the best of our human ability the purpose and destiny God has marked out for each one of us. Lent offers us a time reflection when we can draw near to God, through fasting, reading and prayer so that we can know more certainly what that purpose and will might be for our lives. One of the prayers we use on Ash Wednesday invites us to use the time of Lent as a time of holy observance, a time that is different from the rest of the Christian year, a time to reflect on the purpose of our own spiritual journey. It's also a time which leads inexorably to the cross and the resurrection beyond, a time to look forward to an Easter which gives the ultimate meaning to our lives as the stone is rolled away and the world looks into an empty tomb. From Lent we look beyond to Easter. As we look into ourselves in Lent, we see the temptations we have succumbed to, we see the things in our lives which we need to repent of, see the things in our lives which we need to get sorted out, but beyond all those we are able to see the God who is in each one of us through the glory of a resurrected Christ. Sometimes we just don't spend enough time looking and stop before we see His glory in our inner selves. *Sam Cappelman*

Meditation.

At sometime in our lives each one of us has probably had one or more desert experiences - times of loneliness, disillusionment, emptiness, and spiritual dryness; times of change, decision, transition, and struggle. Times when we wonder what God's calling, and our faith, are all about. Times when we seemingly have no other option but to wait until God's direction for us begins to unfold. Jesus begins his ministry with exactly this experience. A time of loneliness, reflection, discernment, transition and struggle. Thankfully, the Spirit of God that accompanied Jesus in the wilderness accompanies each of us in our desert experiences too. And just as for Jesus, our desert experiences, however painful, can be a time of discovery and growth. A time that draws us into God's presence, offering us an opportunity to discern once again what it is that God is asking of us each in this short, earthly journey. A time, as Evelyn Underhill writes, 'when we can have a secret correspondence of the soul.' *Sam Cappleman*

Prayers for Sunday and the Week Ahead

Almighty and everlasting God, you hate nothing that you have made and forgive the sins of those who are penitent: create and make in us new and contrite hearts that we, lamenting our wretchedness, may receive from you, the God of mercy, perfect remission and forgiveness; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

Lord, Jesus Christ, help us to fashion in these Lenten days a season of inner redemption and holiness. Again and again, may we use these days to come quietly into your presence ever open to your prompting, ever ready to serve you and ever ready to reflect your coming Easter glory. **Amen**

Teach us, O God, so to use this season of Lent that we may be drawn closer to our Lord, and in fellowship with Him may learn to hate sin, to overcome temptation, and to grow in holiness that our lives may be strengthened for your service and used for your glory. We ask this in Christ's name. **Amen**

Christ give you grace to grow in holiness, to deny yourselves, take up your cross and follow Him; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. **Amen**

Things to do in Lent

Roger Jones Musical 'Greater than Gold' will be performed at Kempston East Methodist Church on Sunday 7 March at 6.00pm. Admission Free, an offering will be held on behalf of the Bible Society. This day is the 200th anniversary of the British and Foreign Bible Society.

Ecumenical Lent Services Bunyan Meeting Church

Finding God in
Art, literature, architecture etc..
Wednesday March 3, 10, 17, 24, 31.
Lunches available from 12 noon.

A Film for Easter?

Mel Gibson's new film *The Passion of the Christ* opened in the US this week on Ash Wednesday, a month ahead of its release in the UK on 26 March. The film is expected to net up to \$25 million in its first week. *The Passion's* official website is selling "crucifixion nails" as jewellery, inscribed with the Bible verse, "He was pierced for our transgressions." The website also offers ideas about ways in which the film can be used in evangelism.

Some American Evangelicals have seized upon the film with enthusiasm: the website of the National Association of Evangelicals urges its members to "make this the largest opening film in history". But the film has also been criticised as over-bloody and anti-Semitic. It depicts Christ's sufferings in the 12 hours before his death in graphic detail.

News, Views and Information

Details of workshops and booking forms from Pam Seymour. Tel 305695. Please book early, no later than 1 March.

Beetle Drive at St Mark's Church, Calder Rise. Monday 8 March. 6—7.30 pm with the Brownies & 7.30—9.00 pm with the Guides. Tickets Adult £2, Child £1, Family £5 (2 adults & 2 children) Includes nibbles, soft drinks available. In aid of Keech Cottage Children's Hospice.

St Andrew's Church requires a part-time Centre Bookings/Admin. Assistant for 20 hours a week, from 1.5.04. £6,396 per annum. More details from Mrs. Liz Fossey 01234 216881. Closing date for applications Today 29 February.

Women's World Day of Prayer Friday 5 March. Service at 2 pm at St. Peter's Church, De Parys Ave. & at 7.30 pm.. at Holy Cross R.C. Church, Goldington Road.

Wanted .. Mature Christian lady to help & advise all local young mum on housekeeping. Fee negotiable. All enquiries to Putnoe Heights Church Office. (365630) in the first instance.

Help Needed for Good Friday Storybox. A special Good Friday event from 12.30 – 1.45. There will be a story, music & Easter activities. Offers of help with party lunch to Margaret Peck please ! Offers of help to Joan Crossley, Liz Spavins & Sam Ware (Junior Church).

Ikea Sofa Bed 3 years old, excellent condition, in green. Cost £850, for sale £120, donation to church funds. Contact Ian Farthing 01234 210892

Wednesday morning communion. Please note the service will take place this week, we will start at 1.00am prompt. The funeral of Peter Carter will take place at 11.00am in church.

Highland Fling join us for the next big event at St. Mark's with a Scottish flavour. Saturday 6th March @ 7.30p.m. tickets available today from both church offices £6 for adults, £3 children under 12. Donations for the raffle gratefully received by any member of the Leadership Team.

Putnoe Heights are seeking a Centre Manager for the busy Church Community Centre, 20 hours per week @ £5 per hour. Applications in writing to the Minister at Putnoe Heights Church by 8th March.

Methodist Homes for the Aged. MHA is a charity established in 1943 by the Reverend Walter Hall to provide care for the elderly. This year MHA are celebrating their Diamond Jubilee of providing Christian Care Services for older people. To mark this event a special thanksgiving service is to be held at Central Hall, Westminster at 3.00pm on Sunday 29 February 2004. A very warm invitation is extended to all if you wish to attend please telephone me on 215053, by Thursday 12 February to enable me to reserve seats. (Grace Foster)

Thank you to Judith Stanton and her supporters for the generous donation they made to the church following their last Whist Drive.

Brickhill Urban Community Council The last meeting of the UCC before becoming a Parish Council, takes place on 10 March 7.30pm at Brickhill Community Centre. Come to see what is happening to buses in Westrope Way, which community groups are allocated grants etc.

Growing to Overcome Learning Disabilities. It is with great sadness that we report that GOLD will be closing next month at both of our Church Centres. Changes in the way statutory government funding is allocated mean that the group will not be able to operate any longer. The costs involved in salaries are considerable and a decision was required quickly and unexpectedly, to enable the group to meet all of its liabilities regarding redundancy etc. The decision will affect all of the groups including the prison creche at St Peter's.

We have worked alongside GOLD now for about 10 years and we have all benefited and been enriched in so many ways by the staff and members. Whilst we are sorry that the groups must be closed, nevertheless we are grateful for all that has been achieved after so many years of commitment by the staff and volunteers. This has been one of the most worthwhile charities which we have supported and we will greatly miss everybody connected with GOLD.

Partnership Lent Course 2004

7.30pm at Putnoe Heights Church

Great Hymn Writers

This year our Lent Course will be looking at the lives and theology of four great hymn writers.

Our Ministers will speak about a separate hymn writer each week in Lent. This would be an excellent event to bring along a friend or somebody who does not come to church.

8 March Herbert Joan Crossley

15 March Keeble Sam Cappleman

22 March Pratt Green Charles Royden

29 March Wesley Neil Bramble Chapman

Information about our Worship

Welcome to our churches, it is always our pleasure to welcome visitors.

Refreshments Please do feel welcome to stay behind after church for coffee which will be served in the church

Sunday School takes place during morning service a Crèche is available at the back of the church, please feel able to walk in and out during the service.

Parents Please remember that colouring boards and crayons are available for children during the service.

Hard of hearing? Please note that a hearing aid loop is fitted at our churches. Please switch to the 'T' setting.

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

**Leslie Barter
John Gilbert
Karen Dawn Ralley
Jean Wallis**

May the souls of all the faithful departed through the mercy of God, rest in peace and

Bloody views

"The camera lingers on the bloodiness of every aspect. Some of these scenes are in slow motion and they are horrific," said the Revd Geoff Crago, communications officer for Gloucester diocese, after seeing a special screening of the film in the US last week.

"We are all meant to feel the guilt of all our sins — we are the cause of every one of those lashes, every blow of the hammer as the nails pierce his hands," he said. He did not think it would bring many people to faith "It's not saying the sort of things I believe are right for presenting the gospel in the 21st century." Mel Gibson is a traditionalist Roman Catholic, who, it is claimed, looks back to a time before Vatican II liberalised many Roman Catholic views, and before the Council declared that the Jewish people were not collectively responsible for Christ's death

Our own Diocesan Communications Officer Mr Peter Crumpler said 'I found the controversial Mel Gibson film, **'The Passion of the Christ'** to be intensely moving, very well produced and extremely violent. It communicates well the physical torture endured by Christ. It is largely scriptural and very powerful. It is difficult to see how claims that it is anti-Semitic can be substantiated.' *Why not write a review for Partnership News?*

The following funerals have been arranged

It was with shock and great sadness that we heard this week of the death of Peter Carter from St Mark's Church. Peter died unexpectedly of a heart attack and the loss will be great to all who knew him. Our thought and prayers are with Janet and all of the family.

The funeral will take place at St Mark's Church on Wednesday 3 March at 11.00am

The funeral of Daniel Herbert Tull will take place on Weds at 10.45am

The funeral of Lionel Philip Clarke will take place same day at 3.15pm.

The funeral of Florence Ada Bleakley will take place at Bedford Crematorium on Thursday 4 March at 1.45pm