



Methodist
Church

Partnership News

2 September 2007

22nd in Ordinary Time



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 in St Mark's Chapel.

9.30am St Mark's - Family Worship
Preacher – Reverend Charles Royden
Leadership Team - Mr Mike Cooper
Intercessions - Mrs Morag Stewart

11.00am Putnoe Heights - Family Worship
With baptism of Freddie Charles Skeel
Preacher - Reverend Charles Royden
Leadership Team - Mrs Sam Ware
Intercessions - Mr Eddy Peck

23rd in Ordinary - 9 September

9.30am St Mark's - Morning Worship
Preacher – Mrs Wendy Waters
Leadership Team - Mrs Laura Farthing
Intercessions - Mr Richard Ledger

11.00am Putnoe Heights - Morning Worship
Preacher - Mrs Wendy Waters
Leadership Team - Mrs Jenny Emsley
Intercessions - Mrs Sue Allen

Readings 9 September

1: Deuteronomy 30: 15 - 20
2 Philemon 1 - 21 3: Luke 14: 25 -33

Thank You

The flowers at St Mark's this week have been given by Margaret Standley and family and sisters Elizabeth and Mary in Sheffield in memory of John on his birthday.

The flowers at Putnoe Heights Church this week have been given by Dawn Allinson in memory of her husband, Maurice, on their Golden Wedding anniversary; and by Arthur Merryman in memory of his wife, Vi, on the anniversary of their wedding.

Prayer for Sunday

Give to me, O God,
a heart of joy that rests in your peace
and a soul of tranquility
that delights in your beauty;
a spirit of glory that sings your praise,
a life of serenity at home in your presence
and a mind of quietness
renewed by your Spirit;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.
Evelyn Underhill, 1875-1941

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

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 Cooper 365302 Mob 07989367604
Treasurer Mr Ian Morse 216428 treasurerph@thisischurch.com
Gift Aid Administrator - Mr John Hitt 404186
Youth & children's worker - Mrs 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 L Parry 216724
Treasurer - Mr Ian Farthing 210892 treasurer@thisischurch.com

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

10.45am U3A Playreading St Mark's C Birks ☎219607

12.00pm Story box We 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

2.30pm Bedford Arts Society 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

4.15pm 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 St Mark's 1st week every month Pat Nicholson ☎353518

7.15pm 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 meeting 17 September - Judith Stanton. ☎823313

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

8.00pm 'Get Fit, Stay Fit' 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

10am -Bedord Arts Society starting at St Mark's on the 11th September. ☎Mrs Brown 771676

1.30pm 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 of the month Mrs Berman ☎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 Sept 4th. AGM. Betty Wyatt ☎350188.

2.30pm Mother Teresa Support Group. St Mark's 1st & 3rd week. Wool and knitting needles provided. Mrs Maureen Watling ☎262225

2.30pm Tuesday Afternoon Housegroup. St Mark's 2nd & 4th week Stubbs ☎406784.

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

6.30pm Yoga Putnoe Heights. Rachel Leontyne ☎783129

7.00pm Hearts in Beds Cardiac Support Group St Mark's 1st Tuesday ☎Parsons 351150

7pm Creative Card Making St Mark's 1st & 3rd Week of the month Carol Houghton ☎346718

7pm Keep Fit. St. Mark's Jan Gregory ☎328455

7pm MT Karate [all ages] Putnoe Heights. Karen King ☎07941 264885

7.30pm Tabernacle of Truth Church Putnoe Heights Bible study & prayers. Revd.Tarr ☎360188 or 07866775515

7.30pm Chartered Management Institute St Marks 3rd week of the month. Mrs Dimmock ☎01525 862374

7.45pm Putnoe Heights Ladies Tuesday Club - Meets fortnightly. Next meeting Audrey Wilkins ☎365068 or Margaret Gentle ☎309043

Wednesday

9.00am Paint Tots 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 5 September Putnoe Heights Office ☎365630

1.00-3pm Police Surgery at Putnoe Heights .

1.15pm Bridge Club for the Retired. St. Mark's. Mr Barnes ☎261811

2pm U3A Whist Group St Mark's 3rd week of the month (starting 19th Sept) ☎400584

2.15pm - Fifty plus Keep Fit. Putnoe Heights Mrs Webster ☎856966

4.15pm Kumon Maths. Putnoe Heights Mrs Raksha Mistry ☎01908 392698

6.00 pm Brownies. St Mark's. Mrs Carol Warden ☎219731

6.15pm Yoga and Relaxation Putnoe Heights Rachell Monton ☎01234 297138

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

7.00pm Bunyan Bridge. St. Mark's Brian Sallows ☎407725

7pm U3A Whist Group St Mark's 4th Wednesday of the month (starting 26th Sept) ☎400584

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

7.00pm Yoga St Mark's Dorothy Turner ☎721763

7.00pm Putnoe Guild Putnoe Heights monthly Janice ☎Loxley 347073

7.45pm Badminton Club Putnoe Heights All welcome. Ken Marriott ☎214867

8.00pm Tudor Reeds Folk Dance Club St Mark's, 1st, 3rd & 5th Wednesday. Next meeting 5 September 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 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 Chat and Play St. Mark's. A group for Mums & toddlers. £1.50 for first child + 50p for each extra child over 2 years. Next meeting 6 September. 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 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. Next meeting 6 September. Contact Emma Strangwick ☎211070

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

2pm Putnoe Bridge Club. Gerald Palmer ☎345991

5.30pm 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 C Hill ☎772922

7.00pm Club 2000 Putnoe Heights Sheila Jakeman ☎261935

7pm U3A Folk & Poetry Group. St Mark's 2nd & 4th week of the month. Doug Ovenden ☎825059

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

7.30pm Bedford Embroiderers' Guild St Mark's 3rd Thursday of the month. Mrs C Smith ☎344544

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

7.45pm Housegroup meets fortnightly Betty Wyatt ☎350188

8.00pm Bedford Writers Circle. St Mark's 1st week each month. Mr Newton ☎01525 378193

8.00pm Magpies Women's Group St Mark's 2nd & 4th week Mrs Cotchin ☎402089

8.00pm Brickhill Wives St Mark's 1st and 3rd week Next meeting Mrs Woods ☎404702

Friday

9.30-12.30pm & 12.30 - 2.30pm U3A Photography Group St Marks 4th week Joyce Fildes ☎353086

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

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

2.00pm U3A Gardening Group Putnoe Heights Eve Whitehead ☎356875

6.30pm Line Dancing. St Mark's Christine Rushton ☎782360

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

7pm Youth Club for age 10-15. St Mark's Church. Contact PC Dave Hawkey ☎349179

Saturday

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

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

7.00pm Duplicate Bridge. St Mark's Mrs Pillinger ☎212066

Sunday

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

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

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

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

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

Diary Dates

St Mark's Church Council – 12 November

St Mark's Leadership Team – 13 September

Putnoe Heights Leadership Team – 17 September

St Mark's Church Forum Meeting - 4 September 12 noon

Putnoe Heights Centre Management - 19 November

Putnoe Church Council - 8th October

Pastoral Group Meeting –

Churchyard Committee - 5 September 11am

Putnoe Heights Mission Group Meeting. 12 September. 7.30pm at 14 Flint Way

Partnership Council -

Brickhill Parish Council Meetings

Deanery Meeting - 13 September St Paul's

Circuit Meeting

Woodland Burial Trustees - 3 September 7pm

Putnoe Heights Children & Youth–

Calendar dates appear on our church website

Telecare



Telecare

It is extremely helpful to the Ministers to be able to have feedback, especially if somebody is poorly or in hospital. If you have not yet put your name down on the

Telecare scheme, please do so. Additional members of the Pastoral Team are sharing the task of making telephone calls. Please do not be concerned if a new person calls.

22nd in Ordinary

Opening Verse - Philippians Chapter 1

Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus: Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, but made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness.

Collect Prayer for the Day - Before we read we pray Father of all, you gave your only Son, to take upon himself the form of a servant and to be obedient even to death on a cross. Give us the same mind that was in Christ Jesus that, sharing in his humility, we may come to be with him in his glory; for he lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen

First Bible Reading - Proverbs 25:6-7

Father of all, you gave your only Son, to take upon himself the form of a servant and to be obedient even to death on a cross. Give us the same mind that was in Christ Jesus that, sharing in his humility, we may come to be with him in his glory; for he lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen

(This is the word of the Lord - **Thanks be to God**)

Second Bible Reading - Hebrews 13:1-8, 15-16

Keep on loving each other as brothers. Do not forget to entertain strangers, for by so doing some people have entertained angels without knowing it. Remember those in prison as if you were their fellow prisoners, and those who are mistreated as if you yourselves were suffering. Marriage should be honoured by all, and the marriage bed kept pure, for God will judge the adulterer and all the sexually immoral. Keep your lives free from the love of money and be content with what you have, because God has said, "Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you." So we say with confidence, "The Lord is my helper; I will not be afraid. What can man do to me?" Remember your leaders, who spoke the word of God to you. Consider the outcome of their way of life and imitate their faith. Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever. Through Jesus, therefore, let us continually offer to God a sacrifice of praise--the fruit of lips that confess his name. And do not forget to do good and to share with others, for with such sacrifices God is pleased.

(This is the word of the Lord- **Thanks be to God**)

Third Bible Reading – Luke 14:1,7-14

One Sabbath, when Jesus went to eat in the house of a prominent Pharisee, he was being carefully watched. When he noticed how the guests picked the places of honour at the table, he told them this parable: "When someone invites you to a wedding feast, do not take the place of honour, for a person more distinguished than you may have been invited. If so, the host who invited both of you will come and say to you, 'Give this man your seat.' Then, humiliated, you will have to take the least important place. But when you are invited, take the lowest place, so that when your host comes, he will say to you, 'Friend, move up to a better place.' Then you will be honoured in the presence of all your fellow guests. For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted." Then Jesus said to his host, "When you give a luncheon or dinner, do not invite your friends, your brothers or relatives, or your rich neighbours; if you do, they may invite you back and so you will be repaid. But when you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind, and

All who
exalt themselves
will be humbled,

and

those who
humble themselves
will be exalted.

Luke 14.11

you will be blessed. Although they cannot repay you, you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous."

(This is the word of the Lord- **Thanks be to God**)

Post Communion Prayer

God of our pilgrimage, you have willed that the gates of mercy should stand open for those who trust in you: look upon us with your favour that we who follow the path of your will may never wander from the way of life, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Hymns (Please distribute Hymns and Psalms and Family Worship, Baptism cards at Putnoe)

1. Praise to the Lord, the almighty, the king of creation, **16**
2. Seek ye first **138**
3. Who would true Valour see **688** Tune Monks gate
4. Glorious things of thee are spoken **817** Tune Abbots Leigh

Commentary

Our reading from Luke 14:1 tells us that Jesus had been invited for a dinner party at the house of a "prominent Pharisee." This is somebody who was very high up in the Pharisee leadership structure. This Pharisee would have had a great address, a lavish home and the people who had been invited would consider themselves on the 'A List.'

In Israel, meals were very important role, not only in the family, but in society as well. When an Israelite provided a meal for a guest, even a stranger, it assured him not only of the host's hospitality, but of his protection. Lot, you will recall (Genesis 19), invited the angels of God into his home and provided them with a meal. When the men of Sodom wanted to do these guests harm, Lot offered his daughters to the men to sexually abuse, in an attempt to prevent harm from coming to his guests. This is shocking to us, but it tells us the meaning of a meal.

Also in Israel, the meal table was closely tied to one's social standing. "Pecking order" was reflected in the position one held at the table. Places at the table were indicative of rank, sit higher and draw esteem from others.

We might question then why Jesus was invited at all. he has spent the first part of his ministry doing things back to front. He has chosen a tax collector as a follower, been intimate with a prostitute, touched unclean people and told stories about Samaritans. Jesus was clearly not a social climber. Perhaps there was interest in this new attraction in town. The host might have told people that a new and interesting rabbi was in town who they should meet. However it is much more likely that it was a 'set up', we are told that Jesus was "very carefully watched." There is an old saying that says "Keep your friends close but keep your enemies closer." Sometimes the best strategy to bring down your enemy is to get close to him, make him relax and let his guard down. Under such circumstances he might slip up, divulge a piece of information he shouldn't reveal, do something before your very eyes that you would otherwise never see but can now use as evidence against the person.

I suspect that this dynamic was partly behind this Pharisee's having Jesus for dinner. As such, it is neither accidental nor coincidental that Jesus immediately encounters a man with dropsy. Most likely this man's breathing was laboured, his face, legs, feet, and hands were swollen because fluid had been allowed to build up throughout his body. He would have looked so ugly and out of place alongside the great and good and beautiful people. So the first person Jesus meets is a sick person and the Pharisees watch Jesus carefully. Could Jesus resist the urge (considering it was the Sabbath) to help the man. For our compassionate Lord, one day of suffering – let alone one more – was too much. Even one more day of disease was intolerable to Jesus.

Soon it is time to eat, but as the guests scramble for the best seats. Jesus is spoiling for a fight! he is no innocent victim at this dinner party, at this crucial time - the public and visible display of social pecking order, as they are grabbing their seats, Jesus turns to the host and is critical of the guest list! Jesus says, "When you throw a party, don't invite friends, brothers, and rich people." He was describing every last person around the table! "Instead," Jesus goes on, "invite the poor, the blind, and the crippled."

There is a final sting in the tail here. Clearly the host had invited one such person, the sick man with dropsy, but he had only been invited to trap Jesus, the invitation was false. *Charles Royden*

Meditation Born in Albania in 1910 Mother Teresa of Calcutta worked with the poorest of the poor in India. A journalist once asked why she bothered working with the poor in Calcutta, because it was all just a drop in the ocean - there being millions of poor people in India. Mother Teresa said in reply that she was not concerned with a big way of doing things - she was concerned with individuals: "This person", she pointed to someone, "thinks it makes all the difference!" Mother Teresa said, "We do no great things, only small things with great love." **Prayer** Loving Lord, inspire me to be welcoming and generous in my attitude to others, showing individuals that they matter and are important. May I make a difference to someone in my part of the world today.

Prayers for Sunday and the Week Ahead

Gracious One, you meet us, hold us and challenge us in our life together with others; transfigure our relationships so that mutual love may continue until we find ourselves welcomed into the highest place you have reserved for all your children, through your Word and Spirit. Amen.

God our Father, we remember before you Diana, Princess of Wales, and offer you our gratitude for all the memories of her that we treasure still. Her vulnerability and her willingness to reach out to the excluded and forgotten touched us all; her generosity gave hope and joy to many. May she rest in peace where sorrow and pain are banished, and may the everlasting light of your merciful love shine upon her; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Father eternal, unfailing source of peace to all who seek you, we entrust to your love and protection all for whom this anniversary of the tragic and untimely death of Diana, Princess of Wales reawakens the pains of grief and loss. Comfort all who mourn, that casting all their cares upon you, they may be filled with your gifts – of new life, of courage and of hope; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

O Lord, you who sit high above the heavens, you who created all we see and know, you are a Great and wondrous God, full of glory and honour. And yet, for all your greatness, you stooped down to come and live among us that we might be drawn into the circle of your love for all time. Wrap your loving and merciful arms around us this day. Open our hearts that we might be truly humbled by your spirit and full of love for all creation. Amen.

O God of grace and mercy, we confess that we are too often stuck in our wayward ways. You have offered us love and we choose the disappointment of the world. You speak to us of forgiveness and new life and we stop our ears. Your patience and love toward us are beyond our ability to understand. And yet, because of your Son Jesus Christ, we are assured of your steadfast love as we come humbly seeking forgiveness and new life. Amen.



Against the odds...?

In advance of the implementation of the Gambling Act 2005, the Methodist Church and the Salvation Army are

responding to the new law and

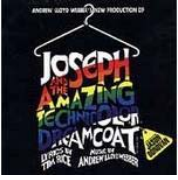
highlighting the risks of gambling with a new resource, *Against the odds...?* The document offers information and advice on the Gambling Act 2005, which comes into effect on 1 September. The Act brings increased opportunities to gamble and fewer advertising restrictions for gambling operators and *Against the odds...?* explains the new regulations, the many types of gambling and offers a Christian response to the issues.

Anthea Cox, Coordinating Secretary for Public Life and Social Justice for the Methodist Church, says: "The social cost, to individuals, families and

communities, of problem gambling is something that deeply concerns us and we fear that as opportunities to gamble increase, inevitably so will problem gambling. This document is a Christian response to the issues and we hope it will be helpful to those wishing to know more about gambling legislation in the UK, the concerns that surround gambling addiction and the action Christians may wish to take in looking at the challenges that gambling brings."

It is not just a matter for policy makers – we can all do our part to support those with gambling problems and to campaign for greater protection for the vulnerable. The document also reminds us that we need to remain alert to the potential dangers and not to become complacent now that the Act is in place."

Against the odds...? also gives advice on what individuals can do to support those with gambling addiction, to increase public awareness and to raise concerns about casino proposals in their area.



Joseph and His Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat will be performed today at 11.45am at Putnoe after a slightly abbreviated service. Everyone is welcome to come and watch our children's

summer workshop.

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

Belief Courses A Day Retreat at Turvey Abbey on Saturday 24th November 2007. The suggested fee will be £30.00. For information contact Stephen Heap 01234 216181. Cheques payable to BELIEF. Getting to grips with Matthew's Gospel. Speaker - Dr Jeffrey John at St Andrew's Church, Kimbolton Road.. 23rd February.2008 Forms available from St Mark's Church Office

Offertory Envelopes Members of the Envelope Scheme at Putnoe Heights Church are invited to collect a set of offertory envelopes for the next twelve months from the table in the welcome area. Anyone who would like to join the scheme is asked to contact John Hitt, (tel. 404186) for further information.

NCH House to House Collection NCH, the children's charity, works with disadvantaged and disabled children and their families, through its family centres located throughout the country. It is an independent charity working with other groups in partnership including the Methodist Church. Her Majesty the Queen is its patron. The annual house to house collection to support the vital work of the NCH will take place as usual in the first 2 weeks in September. St Mark's Church has the responsibility for covering most of Brickhill and last year we raised over £800. If you could spare a few hours during early September to put out and collect envelopes in the Brickhill area, perhaps near to where you live, or you would like some more information then please contact me Mike Elliott 342507.

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 at 2.30pm Wool, needles and patterns provided.

Social Event at St Mark's-The Caribbean evening planned for 13th October has been changed to "An Evening from the Shows." Put the date in your diary! The Caribbean Evening will be arranged at a later date.

TXT is the new youth group for our young teenagers starting in September on alternate Sunday evenings 6.30 - 8.00pm. We shall be doing a little Bible Study followed by some fun activities and prayer. If you could spare the time to be one of our adult helpers please contact Sam Ware on 304058.

Methodist Prayer Manual If you wish to order a copy of the publication due this month, please let Vera Pearson know. 270737

Putnoe Harvest Lunch : Sunday 30 September at 1pm. Tickets are available from Putnoe Office for £5 adults, £2.50 Children under 10. Two courses with soft drink and tea and coffee. (They usually go very quickly).

Footprints. September 2nd.Gentle walk. Meet at Tesco Car park Yellow Zone at 2.30 this afternoon. Contact Eddy and Margaret Peck Tel:367567

'La Moda' Fashion Show. In aid of Breakthrough Breast Cancer. Wednesday 19th September2007 at the Marquee, Bedford Blues Rugby Club, Goldington Road, Bedford. Doors open at 7.00pm and the show will start at 8.00pm. Tickets £5. from Sue Cobley. Tel:01234365871. If anyone would like to donate a raffle prize or a bottle for the tombola, please also contact Sue 01234 365871 9, Arrow Leys Putnoe.

Car Boot Sale. Thank you to everybody who has supported us throughout the year with car boot sales. Thanks to workers on the day, bakers, buyers, givers of goods etc. The last one of the season raised a staggering £1400 - a brilliant result.

Fairtrade Display at 22 Mallard Hill. Come along and see a wide range of fairly traded products.
7-9.30pm 21st September
2-5pm 22nd September.
10am - 1.00pm 23 September
Your fairtrader 01234 268574



Bedford Heritage Week

The Friends of Foster Hill Cemetery will have an Open Afternoon on Sunday 9 September 2.00pm—4.30pm. There will be guided walks on the heritage and natural history of this historic listed cemetery, starting at 2.30pm and 3.30pm promptly. Record books relating to burials in the cemetery since its opening in 1885 will be available for visitors to study. Help will be given in finding specific burials. All Welcome, refreshments provided. Enquiries, please telephone, 01234 360003

Walk the wall and help save innocent lives!

Feed The Children UK will be abseiling the 140ft tall Bedford Park Inn on Sunday 21st October 07, to raise money to help some of the poorest children around the world. Why not join us and help save a child's life? All you have to do is pay a £10 registration fee (which goes towards the cost of the abseil company) and then pledge to raise £100 in sponsorship. To find out more about this exciting event call Miranda on 0118 932 0095, email mparker@feedthechildren.org.uk or see the events section at www.feedthechildren.org.uk to download an application form. (The minimum age for participants is 16 years.)

A Word in Time – the online daily bible study

As daily life gets more and more hectic, many find it difficult to make time for the spiritual side of life. Now they can simply log on to www.methodist.org.uk/bible from wherever they happen to be and access A Word in Time, the Methodist Church's new online daily Bible study.

Launching Sunday September 2 as part of the new-look Methodist website, A Word in Time will feature a daily Bible reading, background on the text, reflections and questions to ponder from that week's contributor. It follows the readings in the Methodist Prayer Handbook, All things in Christ, bringing the 40,000 readers of the handbook together with online disciples in their search for daily spirituality. Sundays will be extra special, with a blog attached to the commentary, enabling users to post their own comments and thoughts on the featured passage. Alison Pollard, Web Writer, says; "the Bible is a central part of our faith, but with our hectic 21st century lifestyles, it's often easy to neglect this essential part of our Christianity. With this exciting new online feature, we are trying to encourage the reader to apply the Bible to their own life and the social and political context in which they live." Each week, a different writer will offer their thoughts and reflections on a different passage of the Bible, with fifty-two contributors in total, from a wide range of social and academic backgrounds.




St Albans Woodland Burial

Thanks to all who came and supported the woodland burial 'Open Day.' many more people came than we expected, which was a great encouragement. Trustees meet this week 7.00pm in the Wren Room.

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.



Madge Ursula Harrison

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



St Mark's Coffee Shop

Every Sunday
2.30pm— 5.00pm

Don't forget to come along and enjoy great teas

Prayer

We pray, Father, for those who are afflicted and in various ways and for all those whom we know who require a blessing - be it physical, emotional, financial, or Spiritual Touch, O God all those who are bent over and oppressed by crippling spirits - and set free all those who are afflicted by attitudes and opinions and viewpoints that cause them and others to become bowed down and to suffer needlessly. Create in them the joy that is meant to be part of the Sabbath day - the day in which we have rest from our labours and celebrate the wholeness that comes from you.

Rest in Peace



The funeral of Vera May Mulholland will take place at St Mark's Church at 11.30am on Tuesday 11 September.