

Partnership News

4 April 2004

Palm Sunday

Methodist
Church

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

Family Worship with Baptism

Preacher – Rev Dr Sam Cappleman

Leadership Team - Mr Jim Williams

Intercessions – Mr Mike Elliott

11.00am Putnoe Heights

Family Worship with Baptism

Preacher – Rev Dr Sam Cappleman

Leadership Team - Mr Peter Bailey

Intercessions - Mrs Margaret Massey

Sunday 11 April—Easter Sunday

8.30am Service of Holy Communion

Held at both churches

9.30am St Mark's Church - Family Communion

Preacher – Rev Neil Bramble–Chapman

Leadership Team - Mr Ian Farthing

Intercessions – Mr Ian Farthing

11.00am Putnoe Heights - Family Communion

Preacher – Rev Dr Sam Cappleman

Leadership Team - Peter Bailey

Intercessions - Margaret Massey

Thank You

The flowers at St. Mark's Church this week have been given by Milly Rollinson in memory of her parents.

The flowers at Putnoe Heights Church this week have been given by Val and Gwyn Morgan on the occasion of their Ruby Wedding Anniversary.

Prayer for Sunday

Lord of creation, each day is a gift from you.
Give us eyes to see the beauty of your world;
ears to hear the sounds of your creation;
and grace to use your gifts wisely and well.

Anne Brown, London North West District Chair

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 Pieczyk

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

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Regular Weekly Activities - A Guide To Our Churches

Monday

9.30 - 12.00 pm Pre-school (See website for more details) Mrs Janet Smith 326685 (Putnoe Heights) or Mrs. Helen Harpin **312634** (St. Mark's).
10.00 am Day Care Centre at St. Mark's Church for those with Learning Difficulties.
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 19 April 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
12 noon - 10.00 pm Slimming World at St. Mark's. Sessions start at 12, 1.30pm, 4pm, 5.30pm & 7.15pm Contact Val Careless 345213.
2.15pm Putnoe Heights Women's Fellowship - Next meeting - Rev J Arthern. 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 The Stables Alison Wood. Contact Mrs C Davies 219130

8.00pm Tuesday Housegroup will resume after Easter. 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 Day Care Centre Putnoe Height Church for those with Learning Difficulties.

10.00 am Holy Communion at St. Mark's Chapel. This is a half hour service followed by coffee. All welcome.

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

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

Luncheon Club at St. Mark's meets fortnightly. Next one 14 April 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 Day Care Centre at St. Mark's Church

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

11.45am Yoga at St. Mark's Church. Contact
Rachel on 783129 or 07703 300969.

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

Putnoe Leadership Team Meeting

Wednesday 5 May. Putnoe Heights Church

St Mark's Leadership Team

28th April at Jim Williams, Thursday 27 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

Pastoral Group The following dates have been
proposed for our next meetings

Tuesday 20 April 4.30pm Pastoral Group

Meeting at St Mark's Would team members

please advise Mary Stubbs if you are not able to
make the meetings.

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).

British Red Cross Open Gardens. There are
more gardens open this year in this area. For
details

please refer to the booklet which can be found
on the notice board. If you wish to help with
these events contact Jo Whitney 36106

Coffee Time Cards New stocks of Easter
cards are on sale from today, after morning
service. Usual reasonable prices. Commissions
still taken.

Ramblers Please also note that details of the
Ramblers week-end away in September are now
available in the welcome area.

Saturday 3rd April 2004 All day walk
incorporating a short train ride(Bedford to
Ridgmont £2.70) and 8½ mile walk from
Ridgmont station to Millbrook

Cont page 7.....



Bible Notes, Palm Sunday (Year C, Red)

Opening Verse of Scripture Matthew 21:9

Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest!

Collect Payer for the Day - Before we read we pray

Almighty and everlasting God, who in your tender love towards the human race sent your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ to take upon him our flesh and to suffer death upon the cross: grant that we may follow the example of his patience and humility, and also be made partakers of his resurrection; 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.

First Bible Reading Isaiah Chapter 50:4-9a

The Sovereign LORD has given me an instructed tongue, to know the word that sustains the weary. He wakens me morning by morning, wakens my ear to listen like one being taught. The Sovereign LORD has opened my ears, and I have not been rebellious; I have not drawn back. I offered my back to those who beat me, my cheeks to those who pulled out my beard; I did not hide my face from mocking and spitting. Because the Sovereign LORD helps me, I will not be disgraced. Therefore have I set my face like flint, and I know I will not be put to shame. He who vindicates me is near. Who then will bring charges against me? Let us face each other! Who is my accuser? Let him confront me! It is the Sovereign LORD who helps me. Who is he that will condemn me? This is the word of the Lord -- Thanks be to God)

Second Reading Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29

Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; his love endures forever. Let Israel say: "His love endures forever." Open for me the gates of righteousness; I will enter and give thanks to the LORD. This is the gate of the LORD through which the righteous may enter. I will give you thanks, for you answered me; you have become my salvation. The stone the builders rejected has become the capstone; the LORD has done this, and it is marvellous in our eyes. This is the day the LORD has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it. O LORD, save us; O LORD, grant us success. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the LORD. From the house of the LORD we bless you. The LORD is God, and he has made his light shine upon us. With boughs in hand, join in the festal procession up to the horns of the altar. You are my God, and I will give you thanks; you are my God, and I will exalt you. Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; his love endures forever.
(This is the word of the Lord -- **Thanks be to God**)

Gospel Reading Luke Chapter 19:28-40

After Jesus had said this, he went on ahead, going up to Jerusalem. As he approached Bethphage and Bethany at the hill called the Mount of Olives, he sent two of his disciples, saying to them, "Go to the village ahead of you, and as you enter it, you will find a colt tied there, which no one has ever ridden. Untie it and bring it here. If anyone asks you, 'Why are you untying it?' tell him, 'The Lord needs it.'" Those who were sent ahead went and found it just as he had told them. As they were untying the colt, its owners asked them, "Why are you untying the colt?" They replied, "The Lord needs it." They brought it to Jesus, threw their cloaks on the colt and put Jesus on it. As he went along, people spread their cloaks on the road. When he came near the place where the road goes down the Mount of Olives, the whole crowd of disciples began joyfully to praise God in loud voices for all the miracles they had seen: "Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord!" "Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!" Some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to Jesus, "Teacher, rebuke your disciples!" "I tell you," he replied, "if they keep quiet, the stones will cry out."
(This is the word of the Lord -- **Thanks be to God**)

Post Communion Prayer Lord Jesus Christ, you humbled yourself in taking the form of a servant, and in obedience died on the cross for our salvation: give us the mind to follow you and to proclaim you as Lord and King, to the glory of God the Father.

Hymns (Please distribute Mission Praise and special service sheets)

All glory laud and honour, 9; We cry Hosanna Lord, 725; Make way, make way, 457; Crown Him with many crowns, 109; Ride on, ride on in majesty, 580

Commentary

Luke surrounds the wonderful pageant of Jesus' mounted descent from the Mount of Olives and ascent to Jerusalem with pain. It is hard to trivialise the scene with shallow triumphalism. The context invites us to the horror of Jerusalem and of all other habitations where human blood has been shed. The message is not the cheap comfort of blame, but the mourning for lost peace. The crowd, for Luke, is no longer a populist throng, but disciples who are beginning to understand why this baby was born and why he must die. They cry out - and should they be silenced the stones around would cry out in their stead.

The triumphant entry of Jesus into Jerusalem marked the real beginning of the way of the cross for him. Although his life had been edging that way for some time, Palm Sunday was the beginning of the final count-down to the events of Easter. His manner of entry was carefully chosen. He could have simply walked into Jerusalem, in the usual way, with all the other travellers. Perhaps He was making a statement about being one of the people, ordinary, yet very different. Different enough to make a calculated entry into the city, an entry designed to announce his arrival to the world. This mode of entry chosen by Jesus perhaps foreshadowed his act at the Last Supper, of washing the disciples' feet, the act which showed the servant nature of this particular leader. It demonstrated the great gospel paradox that strength is made perfect in weakness.

By way of His entry into Jerusalem, Jesus lays down a challenge to the authorities, and the authorities have to respond. The people who lined the streets of Jerusalem to cheer for Jesus on Sunday were silent by Friday. They expected a triumphant king but found instead a powerless prisoner. The exuberance and celebration of the entry is followed by the pain of Jesus' unjust trial, the cries for crucifixion and His death on the cross. The authorities had acted. A Palm to Passion tragedy? Or would God intervene to bring about a happy ending?

Sometimes we can find ourselves in similar situations to the palm crowd, waving our flags and saying we want what is best for society, but too often looking for the quick fix and the simplistic answers or changing our tune in the face of adversity. Do we make well intentioned statements, but fail to accept our own responsibility to bring about change? Like Pilate, do we wash our hands of the responsibility of our actions, perhaps knowing what is right, hearing the call of God and needing to take the risk toward our full calling but giving in to our insecurities and our need to be liked?

And indeed it would be a tragedy if that was the ending of the story. But God did intervene to bring about a glorious ending, the resurrection and ascension. An ending that was the beginning of new life. An ending that saw Lordship and Kingship in servant hood, His strength made perfect in weakness, and an ending that saw our weakness made perfect in His strength. An ending that revealed why the baby was born and why He had to die for each one of us. An ending which revealed why we worship the Servant King. It's not a tragedy. For God hears our cries of 'Hosanna' (Save us!) yet forgives our metaphorical shouts of 'crucify' each time we turn away from Him and go our own way. We cry Hosanna today, what are the words on our lips when the Good Friday's come in our lives?

Sam Cappleman

Meditation

Jesus' entry into Jerusalem looks like a real celebration. The people who know - the disciples, not the crowds, as in the other gospels - praise God for the miracles they have seen. They have seen the deeds of liberation which Jesus announced in his home synagogue. Their acclamation includes, as in the other gospels, the allusion to our reading from the Psalms this morning, Ps 118 v 26, 'Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord'. But Luke adds: 'the king'. We are not to forget the kings! Previous kings, especially Archelaus had not brought peace. Here is the real king who would bring real peace. 'Peace in heaven and glory in the highest' (Lk 19 v 38). We are transported back to the time of Jesus' birth and the hillside where the shepherds heard the cry, 'Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace among people of his favour' (Lk 2 v 14). The kings of the earth had brought no peace. The people of Jerusalem refused the way of peace. Jesus offered the way to peace. Peace hailed as heavenly is also peace made for earth. By recalling this scene Luke is recovering for us the cries for liberation among God's favoured people, Israel, and all who belong to her.

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** The Lent Collect

Jesus, poor, unknown and despised, have mercy on us, and let us not be ashamed to follow you. Jesus, accused, and wrongfully condemned, teach us to bear insults patiently, and let us not seek our own glory. Jesus, crowned with thorns and hailed in derision; buffeted, overwhelmed with injuries, griefs and humiliations; Jesus hanging on the accursed tree, bowing the head, giving up the ghost, have mercy upon us, and conform our whole lives to you spirit. **Amen**
Adapted from John Wesley

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**

Holy Father, you have shown us that the brave bearing of your cross is the beginning of wearing your crown: help us by your grace to bear patiently our pains and disappointments, as your beloved Son bore His; and to offer them to you as a pure gift of our faithfulness to our crucified Lord. **Amen**

God our saviour, who's Son Jesus Christ entered Jerusalem as Messiah to suffer and to die, let these palms be for us signs of His victory; and grant that we who bear them in His name may ever hail Him as our King, and follow Him in the way that leads to eternal life; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, now and for ever. **Amen**

May the cross of the Son of God, who is mightier than all the powers of evil, abide with you in your going out and your coming in; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. **Amen**

Give to me, O Lord, a steadfast heart which no unworthy affection may drag downwards; give me an unconquered heart, which no tribulation can wear out; give me an upright heart, which no unworthy purpose may tempt aside. Bestow upon me also, O Lord, understanding to know you, diligence to seek you, wisdom to find you, and a faithfulness finally to embrace you; through Christ our Lord. Amen **Amen** Thomas Aquinas, 1225-1274

Our Easter Services

St Mark's Church

Good Friday Service

Friday April 9 at 9.30am
Morning Family Worship
(with coffee & hot cross buns!)

Easter Day

Sunday April 11
Sunrise Service 6.00am
Holy Communion 8.30am
Family Communion 9.30am

Putnoe Heights Church

Maundy Thursday Service

Holy Communion at 7.30pm

Good Friday Service Friday April 9 at 11.00am
Morning Family Worship (with coffee & hot cross buns!)

StoryBox Easter Special On Good Friday 9 April
12.30pm - 1.45pm

Easter Day Sunday April 11
Holy Communion 8.30am
& Family Communion 11.00am

News, Views and Information

Lunch 12.30—1.00pm at “The Swan” Cranfield.
Meet 10.10am St John's station for 10.17 train. Free car parking behind ‘Kid's World ‘ and St. John's station. Any queries contact Margaret or Alan 327219.

Putnoe Ramblers. Saturday 17 April. A cruise & Ramble ('Crumble'), based on the Grand Union Canal & Ouse Valley Park. Picnic lunch at Great Linford (liquid refreshments on board) Meet at the Barley Mow, Cosgrove, at 10 am. (Parking Opposite) Contact Margaret & Alan Massey (07788 504637) or Sally & John Gunning (305925)

Fun Run & Sponsored Walk 5KM & 3KM. on Sunday 13 June .in Mowsbury Park, 2.30pm start. Prize giving at St Mark's at 4pm. BBQ, Bouncey Castle, Balloon Race. Entry forms available from St. Mark's Church.

Easter cards. Our Easter cards for circulation around the churches, friends and community are now ready. Please do take these and distribute them freely. Please remember that the very best way to get somebody along to church is to give them a card and then bring them.

Services for Highfields . A group from St Mark's conducts a simple service there every third Sunday in the month. If you feel that you would like to help in some way, singing, chatting to the residents, finding hymns etc., we shall be pleased for you to join us. A meeting to discuss future arrangements will follow this morning's Service ,in the Chapel. Thank you. Vera Pearson & John Standley

The late Joyce Cox has bequeathed £1,000 to Putnoe Heights Church in gratitude for all the happy times she enjoyed at church and for the kindness and support she received from the congregation. Joyce wanted to contribute to the continuation of God's work at Putnoe Heights and this bequest will be put towards the chapel development.

Easter Offering envelopes will be available on Palm Sunday to raise funds for the Methodist Fund for World Mission. All proceeds go to support the work of the fund in providing grants for Partner Churches overseas, training for Mission Partners, funding for the work of nationals in mission appointments, World Churches in Britain and various other mission projects. A special service will be held at Clapham Methodist Church on 16 May with the theme of “A stranger in a strange land” all are welcome. Contact Margaret Standley or Pam Seymour.

Rotas for the next quarter are available this morning at both churches, changes having been incorporated from last week. There are some vacancies which we would appreciate more volunteers for - welcoming at St Mark's Church and leading intercessions at Putnoe Heights. Please contact one of the ministers or Leadership Teams if you are able to help.

Easter Cards from our churches are ready for collection and delivery. Please do assist us with getting the cards out to invite people to our services. **Spring Fayre** at Biddenham Village Hall (Nodders Way) on Saturday, 17th April from 10am to 12 noon. Variety of goods and crafts, cakes, gifts, cards, paintings, nearly –new, bric—a brac, plants, books,

Important Notice

We were all disappointed to hear that GOLD was closing. We are however now pleased to be able to report that a new service provided directly by Social services has opened and is offering the same provision of care. It will operate on the same days, at the same times and the same place and be led by Social Services to take over the work of GOLD. We hope that volunteers will come forward who will continue to support this important work and help provide an ongoing resource in our community. Please do contact Wendy Rider in the first instance if you are able to help.

Protection of children and vulnerable adults

Our churches have been requested to ensure that all people involved in positions of responsibility in our churches should have received CRB clearance. By now every member of our Church Leadership Teams, office and centre volunteers, as well as those assisting directly with children and vulnerable adults should have applied for and received their enhanced disclosure clearance. If you have not obtained clearance giving enhanced disclosure through our own procedures—through the St Albans Diocese, not those of another organisation—will you please do so immediately. The process is free and we are more than willing to assist in the completion of the necessary documentation. Please contact Diana Johnson at Putnoe Heights Church safeguarding@thisischurch.com or advise the ministers immediately if you are in any doubt as to whether you are required to apply to the Criminal Records Bureau. Charles Royden

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

**Audrey Elise Swan
Greg Hutchings**

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

etc. Refreshments available where you can sit and chat. Proceeds are for the Arthritis Research Campaign. Do come and have a browse.

Network— District Day at Hertford on Thursday 29th April from 11.00 am to 3.30pm. Business meeting am followed by a speaker from Keech Cottage Hospice.

Mission News The £300 sent by our church to Faith in Action has been used to purchase cassava cuttings to provide a drought resistant crop for farmers in Malawi. Please read full details in the letter on the notice board. Sylvia Cohen 3434224.

Car Boot Sale —Easter Monday. Bric a brac, books etc for the Church Stall will be gratefully received. Also tray bakes for the refreshments.

Grass Cuttnng If you are able to help with the grass cutting at Putnoe Heights Church please would you sign yourself up on the Rota which is now on the church notice board. Thank you.

N.C.H. Home Collection Boxes. If you hold one of these will you please let Margaret Standley have it as soon as possible. Last year the total raised at St. Mark's was £154. 50. In the U.K. as a whole £600,000 was raised by the 40,000 Box holders. New members are always welcome. Thank you

Mission Coffee Morning Thank you to everyone who supported the coffee morning in aid of Mission Funds. £73 was raised for this worthy cause. Grace Foster

Easter Treats. Elizabeth Clare will be selling Easter treats - nests (made of chocolate, shredded wheat and mini eggs) at Putnoe Heights Church after the service this Sunday. Profits will be shared between the new chapel fund and Bedford Sea Cadet Unit.

The following funerals have been arranged

With great sadness we remember and give thanks for the lives of two long standing members of Putnoe Heights Church. They will be greatly missed by all who knew and loved them.

The funeral of Marie Headford will take place at Bedford Crematorium on Tuesday 6th April at 10.00am

The funeral of Mrs Florence Alice Pitts will take place at Putnoe Heights Church at 1.00pm on Monday 5th April