



Methodist
Church

Partnership News

4 May 2008

Seventh Sunday of Easter



Church of
England

Partnership Church Services Today

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

9.30am St. Mark's Church
Family Worship with Thanksgiving of Lennita
Preacher - Revd Dr Sam Cappleman
Leadership Team - Mrs Laura Farthing
Intercessions - Mr John Stubbs

11.00am Putnoe Heights
Family Worship with Baptism of Oliver
Preacher - Revd Dr Sam Cappleman
Leadership Team - Mr Lawrence Wyatt
Intercessions - Ministers

May 11th Pentecost (Whit Sunday)

9.30am St. Mark's Church - Morning Worship
Preacher - Mr A Davis
Leadership Team - Mrs Linda Parry
Intercessions – Mr Chris Izzard

11.00am Putnoe Heights-Morning Worship
Preacher –Mr A Davis
Leadership Team – Mrs Wendy Nash
Intercessions—Mr Eddy Peck

Bible Readings.
1. Acts 2: 1-21
2. 1 Cor 12: 3b-13
3. John 20: 19-23

Thank You

The flowers at St Mark's have been given by Geoff and Margaret Appleton to thank everyone for prayers and messages of sympathy in their recent sad loss of their mother, Millie Meads, and for the many kindnesses shown to her during her lifetime. God bless you all.

The flowers at Putnoe Heights Church this week have been given by Lucy and Andrew Dunford on the occasion of their wedding.

Welcome

We welcome Lennita Jacqueline Florence Pitt who has been brought for a service of Thanksgiving at St Mark's Church. Also Oliver James Ward who has been brought for baptism to Putnoe Heights Church.

Prayer for Sunday

Grant to us, Lord, the gift of inward happiness and the serenity that comes from living close to you. Renew in us each day the gift of joy that, bearing a good courage, we may meet what comes with a gallant heart, giving thanks to you in all things; through Christ our Lord. Amen. *Toc H Prayer*

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 Mrs. Wendy Nash 357119
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 Mob 07922053740
Treasurer - Mr Ian Farthing 210892 treasurer@thisischurch.com
Gift Aid Administrator Mr Williams 360605

Regular Weekly Activities - A Guide To Our Churches

Monday

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

Headteacher Mrs Janet Smith ☎326685

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

Headteacher Mrs. Helen Harpin ☎312634

(See website for more details)

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

10.00am Bakers Barn Art Group. St Mark's

Mr Kellie ☎721063

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

1.45pm U3A History Group St Mark's 2nd & 4th week of the month. ☎ David Fowler 824474

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. Margo Needham 843747

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

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

6.15 pm Brownies Putnoe. Sharon Tanner ☎07720712735

6.15 Pilates at Putnoe Heights Jane Butcher 300859

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 Lena Holland ☎244970

7.30pm Whist Drive. St Mark's 3rd & 5th week each month. Next meeting 19 May Judith Stanton. ☎823313

7.30pm House group 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 -Bedford Arts Society starting at St Mark's on the 11th September. ☎Mrs Brown 771676

1.30pm Toddlers Playtime. Putnoe Heights Majella Atkinson ☎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 6 May Rev. Joan Crossley Betty Wyatt ☎350188.

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

2.30pm Tuesday Afternoon Housegroup. St Mark's alternate weeks. Mary Stubbs ☎406784.

3.45pm Stars School of Dance. Putnoe Heights. Esther Sancto ☎295862 or ☎07917582468.

7.00pm Hearts in Beds Cardiac Support Group

St Mark's 1st Tuesday ☎Parsons 351150

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

7.30pm Putnoe Heights Ladies Tuesday Club - Meets fortnightly. Next meeting 6 May YMCA Delia Shepherd .Audrey Wilkins☎365068 or Margaret Gentle ☎309043

Wednesday

9.15am Paint Tots St Mark's Jacqui Hanahan ☎824475

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

9.30am Body Control Pilates. Putnoe Heights. Stephanie Smith ☎07973174430.

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 7 May 2008 Putnoe Heights Office ☎365630

12.30pm Men's Fellowship Lunch St Mark's 2nd week each month. Chris Izzard ☎212164

1.00-3pm Police Surgery at Putnoe Heights .

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

1.45 Scots Society Whist monthly .All welcome Nancy Barr 268147

2pm U3A Whist Group St Mark's 3rd week of the month Ken Silvester☎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 Racheall 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. Ken Silvester ☎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

7.00pm U3A Sky at Night 2nd Wednesday of the month.

Mr Farish ☎824984

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 7 May 2008 Graham ☎406359 or Alan 345312.

8.00pm Bedford Wine and Social Club St Mark's 1st week in the month. Mrs Gansfield ☎215016

7.45 for 8pm God talk—women's group monthly meeting 14 May for worship and friendly chat. Contact Majella

Atkinson ☎325293

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.

9.40am Jo Jingles. St. Mark's. Music & movement for pre-school children. Jayne Phillips ☎01582 485333

9.45am Yoga Putnoe Heights Lena Holland ☎244970

9.45am Chat and Play weekly at St. Mark's. A group for Mums & toddlers. £1.75 for first child. More details from St. Marks Office ☎342613 or Emma Strangwick ☎211070

12pm Storybox weekly at 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. Contact Emma Strangwick ☎211070

1.30—3.00pm NHS Baby Clinic St. Mark's 267444

1.30pm Toddler Playtime. Putnoe Majella Atkinson ☎325293.

1.45-3.15pm Rosemary Conley St. Mark's. Contact Margot 843747

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 Nina Ovenden ☎825059

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

7.00pm British Cardiac Patients Assoc. at Putnoe bi monthly Mrs. E. marriot 303834

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

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 Jean Birks ☎219607

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 ☎295862 or ☎07917 582468

2.00pm U3A Gardening Group Putnoe Heights Eve Whitehead ☎356875

6.30pm –7.30pm Line Dancing. Beginners 7-8pm

Improvers 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

7.45pm Astrology Group St Mark's as from 11th January. Mr Kenworthy ☎402792

Saturday

9.00pm Stars School of Dance. Putnoe

Esther Sancto ☎295862 or ☎07917 582468

10.00am Theatretrain St Mark's. Dancing acting, singing. Kate Howard ☎01234 782414

1.30pm Young Embroiders bi monthly Terry Fletcher Tel 357198

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



Diary Dates

6pm T.N.T. Putnoe. For 9-12 year olds (fortnightly) join

St Mark's Church Council – 17th June, 18 November

St Mark's Leadership

Team – 23 June

Putnoe Heights

Leadership Team – May 12th

Putnoe Heights Children & Youth Committee – 21st April

Putnoe Heights Management Meetings 14th July.

St Mark's Church Forum Meeting -

19 May, 11 July, 9 September, 12 November all at 12 noon

Putnoe Church Council - 16 June, 6 October.

Pastoral Group Meeting - 10 June 4.30pm

Churchyard Committee - 11 June 11.00am

Putnoe Heights Mission Group –

Partnership Council - May 13th at St Mark's

Brickhill Parish Council Meetings -

Deanery Meeting - 12 June, 18 September, 13 November

Circuit/Deanery Meeting 12 June

Woodland Burial Trustees - AGM 31 May at 5pm

Mission Group Meeting –4 June 7.30pm at 14 Flint Way

Putnoe Heights Children & Youth–

Please advise St Mark's Church Office of the dates of your meetings.

7th Sunday of Easter

Opening Verse of Scripture Ephesians 1:20
He raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms, far above all rule and authority, power and dominion, and every title that can be given, not only in the present age but also in the one to come.

Collect Prayer for the Day —

Before we read we pray

Risen, ascended Lord, as we rejoice at your triumph, fill your Church on earth with power and compassion, that all who are estranged by sin may find forgiveness and know your peace, to the glory of God the father.

First Bible Reading Acts 1:1-14

In my former book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus began to do and to teach until the day he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles he had chosen. After his suffering, he showed himself to these men and gave many convincing proofs that he was alive. He appeared to them over a period of forty days and spoke about the kingdom of God. On one occasion, while he was eating with them, he gave them this command: "Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my Father promised, which you have heard me speak about. For John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit." So when they met together, they asked him, "Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?"

He said to them: "It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by his own authority.

But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." After he said this, he was taken up before their very eyes, and a cloud hid him from their sight. They were looking intently up into the sky as he was going, when suddenly two men dressed in white stood beside them. "Men of Galilee," they said, "why do you stand here looking into the sky? This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven."

Then they returned to Jerusalem from the hill called the Mount of Olives, a Sabbath day's walk from the city. When they arrived, they went upstairs to the room where they were staying. Those present were Peter, John, James and Andrew; Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew; James son of Alphaeus and Simon the Zealot, and Judas son of James. They all joined together constantly in prayer, along with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with his brothers.

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

Second Reading 1 Peter 4:12-14 & 5:6-11

Dear friends, do not be surprised at the painful trial you are suffering, as though something strange were happening to you. But rejoice that you participate in the sufferings of Christ, so that you may be overjoyed when his glory is revealed. If you are insulted because of the name of Christ, you are blessed, for the Spirit of glory and of God rests on you. Humble yourselves, therefore, under God's mighty hand, that he may lift you up in due time.

Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you. Be self-controlled and alert. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. Resist him, standing firm in the faith, because you know that your brothers throughout the world are undergoing the same kind of sufferings. And the God of all grace, who called you to his eternal glory in Christ, after you have suffered a little while, will himself restore you and



make you strong, firm and steadfast. To him be the power for ever and ever. Amen. (This is the Word of the Lord - **Thanks be to God**)

Gospel Reading John 17: 1-11

After Jesus said this, he looked toward heaven and prayed: "Father, the time has come. Glorify your Son, that your Son may glorify you. For you granted him authority over all people that he might give eternal life to all those you have given him. Now this is eternal life: that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent.

I have brought you glory on earth by completing the work you gave me to do. And now, Father, glorify me in your presence with the glory I had with you before the world began. "I have revealed you to those whom you gave me out of the world. They were yours; you gave them to me and they have obeyed your word. Now they know that everything you have given me comes from you. For I gave them the words you gave me and they accepted them. They knew with certainty that I came from you, and they believed that you sent me. I pray for them. I am not praying for the world, but for those you have given me, for they are yours. All I have is yours, and all you have is mine. And glory has come to me through them.

I will remain in the world no longer, but they are still in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them by the power of your name--the name you gave me--so that they may be one as we are one. (This is word of the Lord—**Thanks be to God**)

Hymns (Mission Praise and service sheets)

Christ Triumphant ever reigning, **77**; Father I place into your hands, **133**; Hail the day that sees Him rise, **202**; May the mind of Christ my Saviour, **463**; Glorious things of thee are spoken, **173**

Commentary

In our Gospel reading Jesus looks towards heaven and speaks to the Father, summing up what's about to happen and praying for His disciples and for all believers. In verses 1 - 5 Jesus reports that he has completed the task of making the Father known and asks to return to the Father's glory. In verses 6 - 8 He amplifies His report. He has passed on to the believers that which he received from the Father. But the focus is not about communicating information but about the establishment and confirmation of a special relationship with God. In this relationship is life itself, here on earth and for eternity, in the world and beyond the world. And for all those who have entered into this relationship, they too are special. Special because they belong to the Father through this new relationship, and because of this they are invited to share in the task which the Father gave the Son. As we are called to carry on this task today, we, like them will face many challenges, the same challenges that Jesus highlights in His report back to the Father. The challenge of a hostile world, the challenge of temptation to give up when the going gets tough, and the challenge of disunity among believers. How could they, or we, ever succeed?

This passage from John is Jesus' prayer for what the Father will do for the world, through his risen Son, through the church. It is not a declaration of what is, but a heartfelt prayer for what shall be. It is not a blueprint for how unity will take form or mission take place, but a plea for the Father's strong name to protect those who are in the world who are called and open to the task of doing mission with joy and hope. A passionate appeal from Jesus to His Father that the believers may withstand the challenges which will lie ahead.

As Jesus ascended into heaven and left the earth in bodily form, the believers must have wondered what the future held. In an uncertain, sceptical and hostile world they must have felt alone and overwhelmed by the task to which Jesus had charged them. Paul, in his pastoral letter to Peter gives an indication of just how hard the task might be. It's not for the fainthearted. The enemy is prowling round like a lion, ready to devour anyone it can get its teeth into. For early Christians with memories of their friends and families being thrown to the lions by the Romans this can't have been a comforting image. Fortunately Paul goes on to say how these Christians can resist. They need to stand firm in their faith, confident in the hope that lies before them as

God restores and strengthens them for the task in hand. It was a two way street. God would strengthen and restore them if they stood firm in their faith. Presumably the weaker their convictions, the more difficult it would be for them to stand firm. A challenge for them to be deeply rooted in their embryonic faith. Strength coming not from years of experience or tradition, but strength in believing that the God who came to earth in Jesus would do what He said and transform their lives and the lives of others by His gentle, yet all powerful touch.

As they stepped out in this fledgling belief, would they be ignored as irrelevant, ridiculed for trying to speak out about their faith, brushed aside as they tried to show God's love? Would they be paralysed by fear and uncertainty? Would the pressure to conform to the prevailing lax attitudes overwhelm them? Would they be split by arguments and dissention? Time would tell. It did. History shows that through the power of the Holy Spirit who did indeed strengthen them they, and countless others through the ages, were more than ready and able for the task. The question is, are we? *Sam Cappleman*

Meditation

The disciples must have wondered what was going on. Over the last three years they had come to know Jesus not only as the Son of God, but as a friend and companion. Someone who was always there for them and loved them whatever they did, good or bad. When they got things wrong, Jesus didn't love them any the less, when they got things right, Jesus did not appear to love them any the more. It was absolutely unconditional love. And then all of this was shattered when He was taken away to be brutally crucified. Their world fell apart. And then He was back. A new Jesus, one who couldn't be destroyed. And He stayed with them for a while. And then He was gone again and somehow the disciples didn't get the feeling they'd see Him again in person this time, at least not on earth. And then it dawned on them. They were to be Him on earth, His hands, His feet, His eyes, His mouth, His very presence.

Prayers for Sunday and the week ahead

Saviour Christ, of ourselves we cannot love you, cannot follow you, cannot cleave to you; but you came down that we might love you; ascended that we might follow you, bound us round you as your girdle that we might be held fast to you. You loved us, so make us love you; you sought us, so make us seek you; you found us when we were lost, so be yourself the way, that we may find you and be found in you, our only hope and everlasting joy. **Amen**

Heavenly Father, You gave your Son, Jesus Christ to show us the Way of justice, truth and peace. Help us hold his example before our eyes, in the way that leads to a better world on earth and eternal life in the Heaven. **Amen**

We have a great high priest who has passed into the Heavens, Jesus the Son of God. **Amen**

Blessed are you, Lord God almighty, who gave your Son, Jesus Christ, to be our redeemer and the author of everlasting life; and exalted Him above all for ever; that at all times and in all places we might be partakers of His power and His glory. **Amen**

Almighty and ever-living God, give us new strength from the courage of Christ our shepherd, and lead us to join the saints in heaven, where he lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen**

The God of all grace who called you to His eternal glory in Christ Jesus, establish, strengthen and settle you in the faith; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit be among you and remain with you always. **Amen**

Partnership Council There will be a Partnership Council meeting at St Mark's Chapel on Tuesday 13 May at 7.30pm

Thank you to NCH box holders at St Mark's and Putnoe Heights who have raised £403.33 since May 2007. This generous support gives help to some very vulnerable children, young people and their families, so that they have an opportunity to reach their full potential.

Christian Aid Week 11-17th May. If you are willing to help with this door to door collection in Brickhill please sign the form in the foyer at St. Mark's or let the office know. Envelopes etc will be available for collection on Sunday 4th May.

Footprints. There is a walk around the Castle Ashby area of Northamptonshire on Sunday May 11th in the afternoon. More details from Barry and Jenny Snelson on 344417 or 317597.

Adopt a garden bed scheme. Most people have agreed, when asked, to continue caring for their respective beds in the GoR. Thanks. Could I ask you to help Jean and I by giving your beds special attention over the next few weeks, as baby tree seedlings are taking over the world and need removing while they are small and soil still damp. Other weeds have similar ideas!

Table Top Sale on Saturday 28 June in the afternoon in aid of Church Funds. If you could help with organizing and running this event please see Joan or Liz.

1st Putnoe Brownies celebrate their 50th anniversary on 21 June. If you know anyone who has connections with the group please contact Sharon Tanner on 01767699399 or email firstputnoebrownies@hotmail.co.uk

TNT next meet Sunday 11 May at 2.30pm at Priory Country Park for a cycle ride to the Danish Camp at Willington. We welcome anyone to join us for the ride or meet us there for tea.

Future Dates for your diary. 'The partnership Summer Musical Workshops !!! Tuesday 19 August 2– 4 pm 'Its Raining Cats and Dogs' aimed at the under 5's with carers. Tuesday 26 & Wednesday 27 August 10am—3pm 'The 7 Days of Creation' 5 years plus, all abilities . Full details to follow later.

Lena & Alan Cooper would like to thank everybody for all the cards, good wishes and visitors Lena has received, and for all the offers of help Alan has received. Lena returned home on

Friday 2nd May, is recovering and hopes to be back at church soon.

Ecumenical Forum The forum this year will take place at Barton-le-Clay on Thursday 22 May at 7.30pm. Would like to go and hear what is happening ecumenically across Beds ?

Car Boot Sale—Monday 5th May
St Mark's Car Boot sale tomorrow
Offers of good quality Bric-a-brac gratefully received and also tray bakes for refreshments.

Connecting with The Connexional Noticeboard
A new feature on the Methodist website allows Methodists all over the country to share news and events. Anyone can post news regarding their church or circuit and publicise activities. This will give Methodists the opportunity to be inspired by the goings on of other circuits and churches. The news section will allow Methodists to advertise their exciting new ideas and thoughts that have been put into practice, and to share what has worked well. It will give people a chance to connect with others and contribute ideas to help improve their local churches. When a news section is posted those people will leave their contact details so Methodists who are interested can contact them. The events section is also an exciting part as this shows Methodists the full range of activities taking place all over the Connexion. Dave Webster, Co-Head of Communications for the Methodist Church, says "You can see what is happening in your local area or just generally around the country. We think that this is a simple but effective way for people to learn what else is happening across the Connexion, and to share their own success stories or to invite others to join in their celebrations." This feature is now available for posts right now at: www.methodist.org.uk/local

Belief Course Details and application forms for the following courses are available from the Church Office: "**Improving Your Powerpoint**". 28th June 10.00am –1.00 pm, Christ Church, Denmark St £24.00. "**Why there almost certainly is a God**". 3rd Dec. 7.45 - 9.30pm, Priory Methodist Church, £5.00. "A bit of Church History!". 3rd, 10th, 17th, 24th, September. 7.30pm St. Luke's United Church. Free. "**Making Sense of Scripture**" 27th September 10.00—1.00 pm. St Andrew's Church. £15.00.

God talk is a group of women who meet monthly for an evening of worship and friendly chat. The next God talk will be held at Joan Crossley's home on Wednesday 14 May at 7.45 for 8pm. Please contact Majella Atkinson on 01234 32593 if you need more information.

St John's Hospice Avril Williams and Trudy Bunday are taking part in a sponsored midnight walk for women, in Bedford over a distance of 10 miles on Saturday 17 May. All monies going to our local adult hospice – St John's, Moggerhanger. Sponsorship of any amount would be greatly appreciated. Prepare to be approached!

Brickhill Annual Parish Meeting will be held at St Mark's on Thursday 8th May at 7.30 pm. This is an opportunity for all members of the Brickhill community to come along and find out what is going on in your parish. Representatives from community groups are especially welcome. For more information ring 271708.

Smile International has gap year opportunities for young people engaged in mission and global development. www.smileinternational.org

The Annual Forum of Churches Together in Bedfordshire takes place at 7.30pm on the 22 May at St Nicholas Church, Barton le Clay. We need someone to go!

Dancing? Does anybody know of any dances taking place in Bedford such as tea dances? Please tell Charlie—this is not for a personal desire.

Smile Please We are continuing to experience rising levels of crime and we are installing cameras. However we must be more vigilant. Two weeks ago after Sunday worship a man walked straight past many people as they were leaving church and into the office at Putnoe. Fortunately Joan saw him and Charlie invited him to leave. This week youths entered the chapel at St Mark's and took matches and went through cupboards. They were identified by CCTV and visited by PC Dave Hawkey who

recognised them. The Vicarage was also targeted and a window smashed. We have started to install CCTV at Putnoe and are increasing CCTV at St Mark's. However we all need to be especially vigilant to protect our premises.

Ringmaster. You can receive telephone messages or emails from Bedfordshire Police & Neighbourhood Watch with crime alerts relevant to your area. Ringmaster is a recorded telephone message that is sent to people who have registered their details to receive the crime alert calls from Bedfordshire Police. The messages can also be sent by email. Anyone can register! Then police can alert you to a crime that has occurred in your area.

Open Gardens. Gardens across Bedfordshire are open this year in aid of Red Cross. Tofte Manor Sharnbrook 18 May, Turvey House 8 June, Howbury Hall 22 June, For details see www.redcross.org.uk/opengardens

Grass Cutting. St Mark's has access to a very good mower, kept in the Vicarage garage. If you would care to help cut the grass please sign up on the rota in the foyer. It takes about one hour.

St. Mark's Church Annual Congregation Meeting

To take place immediately after Sunday Service
Opening prayers The Reverend Charles Royden
Preliminary Appointment of minute secretary to the Annual Congregational Meeting.

Record of number of persons present
(Please note that no record is required of names of those present or apologies from the congregation for absence)

Giving Thanks

Expressions of thanks to any leaving office

Elections to Office

Election of Church Leadership Team

Election of Deanery Synod representative

Election of Church Council representatives

Presentations

1. Presentation of Terrier and Inventory
 2. Presentation of current church policy documents
 3. Presentation of August church accounts
 4. Presentation of membership lists (Electoral roll etc.)
 5. Presentation of review usually by Church Leadership Team and presented in written document form
- Closing Prayers

Record of Church Members accurate to date

St Mark's: Methodists 18, Anglican 91, Joint 10, Others 15

Putnoe Heights: Methodists 75, Anglican 80, Joint Partners 8, Others 12

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.

Brian Arthur Wright
Donald Gammons Brown
Bessie Chappell

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

