



Methodist
Church

Partnership News

6 May 2007

Fifth of Easter



Church of
England

Partnership Church Services Today

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

9.30am St Mark's - Family Worship

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

11.00am Putnoe - Family Worship with Baptism

Preacher - Revd Charles Royden
Leadership Team - Mr Lawrence Wyatt
Intercessions - Mrs Sylvia Cohen

13 May

9.30am St Mark's - Morning Worship

Preacher – Revd Charles Royden
Leadership Team - A.N Other
Intercessions - Mrs Wendy Waters

11.00am - Putnoe Heights—Morning Worship

Preacher - Revd Dr Joan Crossley
Leadership Team - Mr Alan Cooper
Intercessions - Mrs Sue Allen

Reading 1: Acts 16: 9-15

Reading 2: Rev 21: 10,22-22-5

Reading 3: John 14: 23-29

Thank You

The flowers at Putnoe Heights Church this week have been given by Mrs Kath Hooley in loving memory of her husband, Ron, and by Mr & Mrs Simon Smith to celebrate the baptism of their baby daughter, Emma May.

Baptism

We especially welcome the family and friends of Emma Kay Smith who has been brought for baptism today.

Prayer for Sunday

Grant to us, O Lord, purity of heart and strength of purpose, that no passion may hinder us from doing your will, and no weakness from doing it; that in your light we may see light clearly, and in your service find perfect freedom; through Christ Our Lord. Amen

St Augustine of Hippo, 354-430

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 Bayliss 268101

Treasurer Mr Ian Morse 216428 treasurerph@thisischurch.com

Gift Aid Administrator - Mr John Hitt 404186

Youth & children's worker - Mrs Liz Spavins 302349

youth@thisischurch.com

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

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

Centre Manager Miss Wendy Rider 342613

Leadership Team - Mrs Janet Day 295592

Treasurer - Mr John Day 295592 treasurer@thisischurch.com

Gift Aid Administrator Mr Jim Williams 360605

Regular Weekly Activities - A Guide To Our Churches

Monday

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

Headteacher Mrs Janet Smith ☎326685

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

Headteacher Mrs. Helen Harpin ☎312634

(See website for more details)

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

10.00am Bakers Barn Art Group. St Mark's

Mr Kellie ☎721063

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

2.30-4.30pm Bedford Arts Society at Putnoe Heights

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

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

4.15pm Rosemary Conley Diet & Fitness. Putnoe

Heights. Miriam Adcock ☎01908 565044

4.15-6.00pm Kumon Maths Putnoe Heights.

Ms Raksha Mistry ☎01908 392698

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

6.15 pm Brownies Putnoe. Sharon Tanner ☎364710

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

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

7.15pm Yoga. Putnoe Heights Karen Simpson ☎244970

7.30pm Creative Needles. Putnoe Heights.

Jacky Hayward ☎307648.

7.30pm Whist Drive. St Mark's each month next 21 May Judith Stanton. ☎823313

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

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

Tuesday

9.30am Candlewicking (Needlework). Putnoe Heights.

Judi Staughton ☎341821

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

Helen Folbigg ☎351223

10.00am Keep Fit. Putnoe Heights. Mrs Stileman

☎822230

1.30-3pm Toddlers Playtime. Putnoe Heights.

Andrea ☎210177 or Majella ☎325293.

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

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

Mrs Burman ☎364723

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

monthly. Mrs C Allen ☎363878

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

2.15pm Putnoe Heights Women's Fellowship - Next meeting 15 May Afternoon Tea No meeting on 8 May Betty Wyatt ☎350188.

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

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

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

6.30 - 7.30pm Yoga Putnoe Heights.

Rachel Leontyne ☎783129

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

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

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

Karen King ☎07941 264885

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

7.30pm Tabernacle of Truth Church. Putnoe Heights.

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

7.30-10.30pm Chartered Management Institute St Mks

7.45pm Putnoe Heights Ladies Tuesday Club - Meets

fortnightly. Next meeting 8 May 'Dowsing and Water' Mrs Paull ☎365068 or Margaret Gentle ☎309043

Wednesday

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

9.30am Childminding Support Group. Putnoe Heights.

Mrs S Longman ☎313949

9.30am - Body Control Pilates. Putnoe Heights.

Stephanie Smith ☎357787.

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

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

A half hour service followed by coffee. All welcome.

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

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

Luncheon Club. Putnoe Heights fortnightly. Next meeting 16 May 2007 Putnoe Heights Office ☎365630

1.00-3pm Police Surgery at Putnoe Heights .

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

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

4.15-6pm Kumon Maths. Putnoe Heights

Mrs Raksha Mistry ☎01908 392698

6.00 pm Brownies. St Mark's.

Mrs Carol Warden ☎219731

6.15-7.45pm Yoga and Relaxation Putnoe Heights

Racheall Monton ☎01234 297138

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

7.00pm Bunyan Bridge. St. Mark's

Brian Sallows ☎407725

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

7.00pm Yoga St Mark's Dorothy Turner ☎721763

7.00pm Putnoe Guild meets monthly. Putnoe Heights.

Janice ☎Loxley 347073

7.45pm Badminton Club. Putnoe Heights

All welcome. Ken Marriott ☎214867

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

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

Thursday

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

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

9.45am Yoga Putnoe Heights Karen Simpson ☎244970

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

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

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

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

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

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

6.15 pm Weightwatchers. St. Mark's.

Mrs Margaret Ralph ☎01767 224978.

6.15pm Brownies. Putnoe Heights Helga Nash ☎218521

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

Mr & Mrs Pike ☎823795

7.00pm Club 2000 Putnoe Heights

Sheila Jakeman ☎261935

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

7.30pm-11.00pm Bedford Senior Chess Club St Mark's

Mr P Housden ☎376597

7.30-9.30pm Embroiderers' Guild St Mark's

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

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

7.45pm Housegroup meets fortnightly

Betty Wyatt ☎350188

8.00-10pm Bedford Writers Circle. St Mark's 1st

Thursday each month. Mr Broadhouse ☎740271

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

8.00pm Brickhill Wives St Mark's (1st and 3rd weeks)

Mrs Woods ☎404702

Friday

9.30am & 12.30pm U3A Photography Group (4th week)

Joyce Fildes ☎353086

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

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

2.00pm U3A Gardening Group Putnoe Heights Eve Whitehead ☎356875

6.30-9.00pm Line Dancing. St Mark's

A night of fun Christine Rushton ☎782360

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

7.30pm Youth Club for age 10-15. St Mark's Church.

Contact PCSO Rowland Gilbey ☎349179

Saturday

9.00- 12.00pm Stars School of Dance. Putnoe

Esther Sancto ☎272517 or ☎07917 582468

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

7.15-10.30pm Duplicate Bridge. St Mark's

Ann or Peter ☎212066

Sunday

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

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

1 - 3pm Tabernacle of Truth Church Putnoe Heights

Rev. Tarr ☎360188 or ☎07866775515

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

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

Diary Dates

St Mark's Church Council – 12 June

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

Putnoe Heights Leadership Team –25 June at Lawrence Wyatt's.

St Mark's Church Management Meeting - 20 June.

Putnoe Heights Centre Management - 14 May, 16 July

Putnoe Church Council - 11 June

Pastoral Group Meeting – 8 May at 4.30pm

Churchyard Committee - 6 June

Putnoe Heights Mission Group Meeting

Wednesday 13 June, 14 Flint Way.

Partnership Council -

Brickhill Parish Council

Meetings on 7 June, 5 July

Deanery Meeting -

Putnoe Heights Children & Youth–

Calendar dates appear on our church website www.ThisChurch.com. Please advise St Mark's Church Office of the dates of your meetings.



Telecare

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

Fifth Sunday of Easter

**"I am the
Alpha and the Omega,"
says the Lord God,
who is and who was and
who is to come, the Almighty.
*Revelation 1.8***



Opening Verse - Psalm 148 v7, 11-12

Praise the Lord from the earth. Kings of the earth and all nations, you princes and all rulers on earth, young men and maidens, old men and children. Let them praise the name of the Lord.

Collect Prayer for the Day

Risen Christ, your wounds declare your love for the world and the wonder of your risen life; give us compassion and courage to risk ourselves for those we serve, to the glory of God the Father. Amen. *Common Worship*

First Bible Reading - Acts 11: 1-18

Peter began and explained everything to them precisely as it had happened: I was in the city of Joppa praying, and in a trance I saw a vision. I saw something like a large sheet being let down from heaven by its four corners, and it came down to where I was. I looked into it and saw four-footed animals of the earth, wild beasts, reptiles, and birds of the air. Then I heard a voice telling me, 'Get up, Peter. Kill and eat.' I replied, 'Surely not, Lord! Nothing impure or unclean has ever entered my mouth.' The voice spoke from heaven a second time, 'Do not call anything impure that God has made clean.' This happened three times, and then it was pulled up to heaven again. Right then three men who had been sent to me from Caesarea stopped at the house where I was staying. The Spirit told me to have no hesitation about going with them. These six brothers also went with me, and we entered the man's house. He told us how he had seen an angel appear in his house and say, 'Send to Joppa for Simon who is called Peter. He will bring you a message through which you and all your household will be saved.' As I began to speak, the Holy Spirit came on them as he had come on us at the beginning. Then I remembered what the Lord had said: 'John baptised with water, but you will be baptised with the Holy Spirit.' So if God gave them the same gift as he gave us, who believed in the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I to think that I could oppose God? When they heard this, they had no further objections and praised God, saying, So then, God has granted even the Gentiles repentance unto life.

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

Second Bible Reading - Revelation 21: 1-6

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea. I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Now the dwelling of God is with men, and he will live with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away." He who was seated on the throne said, "I am making everything new!" Then he said, "Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true." He said to me: "It is done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. To him who is thirsty I will give to drink without cost from the spring of the water of life."

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

Third Bible Reading - John 13:31-35

When he was gone, Jesus said, "Now is the Son of Man glorified and God is glorified in him. If God is glorified in him, God will glorify the Son in himself, and will glorify him at once. My children, I will be with you only a little longer. You will look for me, and just as I told the Jews, so I tell you now: Where I am going, you cannot come. A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another."

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

Hymns (Please distribute Hymns and Psalms and Family service sheet. At Putnoe please also distribute baptism orders)

1. Jesus shall reign where'er the sun 239 (Tune: Truro Psalmody Evangelica 22ii)
2. Jesus loves the little children (On Partnership News page 6)
3. Give me joy in my heart 492
4. Christ from whom all blessings flow 764 (Tune: Vienna)
5. Be thou my vision 378 (Tune Slane)

Commentary

What is a Christian? If you had to define what a Christian person was, how would you do it. Would they believe certain creeds, worship in particular ways, or would they have a certain spiritual model or belief system?

It is a fascinating question and one which Jesus tackles in our reading today from John's Gospel. Jesus makes it clear that Christianity is not to be identified by a particular set of beliefs, a body of doctrines, membership of a certain church or denomination, or adherence to the Bible. A Christian is fundamentally identified by love. Loyalty to our church, knowledge of scripture, religious devotion, all of this is incidental to the importance of being loving people. What we do and how we behave must be clearly identified as loving if we are honest in claiming to walk the Christian path. A Christian is recognised not by their creed but by their ability to reflect the love of God in their life.

In a sense this is obvious, but the next big question is this 'What is love?'

Christians seem destined ever to confuse and sometimes substitute the externals of religion for authentic loving living.

We can be very busy doing charity work, offer our services to the church, and still be pretty unloving people. This is true of all of us, we can be ministers in God's church and still not have allowed God's love to penetrate us to the extent that we are able to reflect that love to others. Sadly we are surrounded by much talk about love which is confusing and which frequently thinks of love in romantic or sentimental terms. We read about love, we hear songs about love, we watch television programmes about love and very often the image of love which is presented is confused or downright wrong.

So how can we know what love is? How can we be spared from lives which are wrecked by an allusive search after love? If we want to know love, then the place to start is in the life of Jesus. He teaches us and shows us practically what real love is. Jesus is a living model of true love, for each of us to use as a means of developing our own loving lives.

There are some straightforward things which we can say about Jesus love

- Jesus showed love by giving attention to others and their needs
- Jesus showed love by serving others in caring ways
- Jesus showed love by offering unconditional acceptance and forgiveness

The love of Jesus is not about fine preaching or sentimental feelings. For Jesus, love is what love does. Each of us must ask ourselves how we can be of service to others, not talking about love but putting it into practice. It should start with those close to us, but it must not stop there it must reach out to the stranger and those we find it most difficult to love. *Charles Royden*

Meditation

Martin Luther King said once that story of the church is like a great extended family that receives a tremendous bequest: they receive an inheritance of a wonderful, beautiful, spacious, luxurious home to share. There is only one stipulation. All must live in it together.

Post Communion Prayer

Eternal God, whose Son Jesus Christ is the way, the truth and the life: grant us so to walk in his way, to rejoice in his truth and to share his risen life; who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

Prayers for Sunday and the week ahead

Keep me safe in your arms, O Lord, for then I have nothing to fear. Let me rely on you in all things and deliver me from all that imperils my salvation. Guard me in the hour of danger and in the hour of success. Grant that I may always believe in you, love you and serve you, and bring me at your bidding into the presence of your glory; through Christ our Lord. Amen *John Henry Newman, 1801-1890*

Lord God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, who brought forth from the root of Jesse a Messiah for all the tribes of the earth; grant us faith and humility so to stand in awe of your purpose, that at the last all the branches of the tree of life may be grafted in, and all those whom you have chosen may rejoice together in your love. Amen

O Lord, support us all the day long of our lives, until the shades lengthen and the evening comes, the busy world is hushed, the fever of life is over, and our work is done. Then Lord, in your mercy, grant us safe lodging, a holy rest, and peace at the last. Amen

Almighty and everlasting God, who in the Paschal mystery established the new covenant of reconciliation, grant that all who have been reborn into the fellowship of Christ's body may show forth in their lives what they profess by their faith. Amen

Direct, O God, with your own living wisdom, our schools, universities and seats of knowledge, learning and wisdom, that they may more and more unveil the wondrous ways of your Kingdom and draw all to worship and adore your ongoing work of wondrous creation. Amen

God, who through the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ has given us the victory, give you joy and peace in your faith; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. Amen

A Hymn for Sunday

Jesus calls the children dear,
"Come to me and never fear,
For I love the little children of the world;
I will take you by the hand,
Lead you to the better land,
For I love the little children of the world."

Refrain

Jesus loves the little children,
All the children of the world.
Red and yellow, black and white,
All are precious in His sight,
Jesus loves the little children of the world.

Jesus is the Shepherd true,
And He'll always stand by you,
For He loves the little children of the world;
He's a Saviour great and strong,
And He'll shield you from the wrong,
For He loves the little children of the world. *Refrain*

I am coming, Lord, to Thee,
And Your soldier I will be,
For You love the little children of the world;
And Your cross I'll always bear,
And for You I'll do and dare,
For You love the little children of the world. *Refrain*



St Albans Woodland Burial Trust

There will be a meeting of the trustees after the car boot sale at 12.30pm on Monday. The construction of the road and car park for the woodland will commence on 9 May.

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

Brickhill Parish Council Meeting There will be a meeting of the Parish Council on 10 May at 6.30pm at St Mark's Church Community Centre. This will be followed at 7.30pm by the Annual Meeting, which will include reports on the Work of the Parish Council, reports from Councillors and a presentation by Muriel Scott, Assistant Director of Public Health, Bedfordshire Primary Care Trust. This will be followed by a question and answer session.

Members of the public are encouraged to attend.

Delivery: The Chair of the Parish Council—Mark Fitzpatrick would be grateful to anybody who is willing to help deliver leaflets advising residents of the Parish Meeting. These are in the foyer.

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

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

Chairs for sale. Since the arrival of the extra 20 chairs in the chapel at St Mark's, we now have too many chairs in the church. We have sorted through them and there are about 25 chairs which the Leadership Team have agreed to sell. They are not in great condition, but would respond well to recovering. Please now take these for free as we just want to get rid of them!

NCH Home collecting boxes. Could you please give Margaret Standley your box so that the contents can be counted and banked. Throughout the year you have collected £256.81 already. Last year

£308.25 was raised in this way by May and I will eventually give you the final total for this year. The support you give helps NCH to work locally with vulnerable children. Putting a little aside now and again means NCH can count on almost £600,000 from these boxes nationally. This allows help and care to be planned for the children that need support. Thank you.

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

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

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

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

Christian books for the under fives - If anyone has any books which would be suitable for using at Storybox on a Thursday at St Mark's, Emma and her team would be very pleased to have them. Books may be left at the Church Office at any time.

Storybox also need help with refreshments for about an hour over lunchtime. If anyone feels they could lend a hand once every six weeks, Emma would love to hear from you. If you leave your telephone number at the office Emma will get back to you. Thank you.

Park Road is celebrating its 120 years of service to the Black Tom area on the weekend of 19/20th May. On the Saturday evening the Risely Singers will give a performance, followed by a quiz and refreshments. Programmes/tickets are £2.50 and can be ordered from Jenny Clifford on 404644 and paid for on the night. On the Sunday morning Rev Dr Janet Wootton, the Well known preacher, will conduct the 11am service and in the evening the Songs of Praise at 6.30 will be all Charles Wesley hymns. Do try and support us in our celebration. Thanks Jenny Clifford

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

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

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

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

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

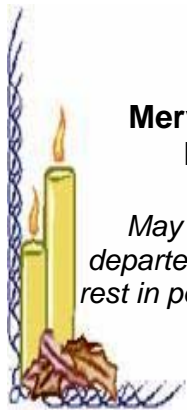
50th Anniversary Celebration Pens! Why not buy a special commemorative pen to mark the 50th Anniversary of Putnoe Heights Church? The pens are black and come in a smart box. Available now at Putnoe, price £3 or phone Jenny Emsley 360397.

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.

**Bernard Careless
Mervyn John Balderstone
Peter Whittingstall**

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



Partnership Quiz Night - questions for all generations. Putnoe Heights Saturday 19th May 6.00 till not very late!!! Teams of 8, bring all 8 or join up on the evening. Buffet supper, please your own drinks. Donations for raffle please. Tickets £3.00 adults, £2.00 under 16's on sale from both Church offices or see Liz.

Annual Congregational Meeting

St. Mark's 11.30am
& Putnoe Heights 12noon

All church members are invited to remain behind after the church service for the annual meeting.

Opening Prayers

Appointment of minute secretary the ACM

Record of number of persons present
(No record is required of names of those present or apologies from the congregation for absence)

Giving Thanks
to any leaving office

Elections to Office

Election of Church Leadership Team
Election of Deanery Synod representative
Election of Church Council representatives

Presentations

Presentation of Terrier and Inventory
Presentation of current church policy documents
Presentation of Church accounts
Presentation of membership lists

Leadership Team Review

Presentation of review of last 6 years by Church Leadership Team and presented in written document form

Closing Prayers

Rest in Peace



The funeral of John Downing will take place at Bedford Crematorium on Thursday 10 May at 1.45pm Royden